

The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1880.

The Week.

THE Bank of England has at last taken formal notice of the heavy drain of gold to this country, and advanced its nominal discount rate to 3 per cent. from $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The response to this action here was an advance in the rates for sterling bills, but the advance was only temporary, and the week closes with rates for bills on London at figures which warrant gold imports. The steamers arriving bring large amounts of gold, not less than \$5,000,000 having been landed here within the last six days. Notwithstanding this foreign specie, the New York money market has been stringent, and the banks only keep up a proper relation between their reserve and liabilities by a contraction of their credits. This contraction last week amounted to nearly \$12,000,000, and had the effect of still more firmly putting the money market in the control of a few wealthy speculators who are also money-lenders. They charged borrowers all manner of "commissions" for money—from $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 per cent. per day to $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 per cent., in addition to 6 per cent. per annum. Until the Treasury begins its January disbursements there is little reason to expect rates for loans which are not made by these speculative capitalists. In spite of the high rates for money, investment securities of all kinds have been strong in price, under the influence, first, of the prospective refunding operations of the Treasury, which will lower the rate of interest on United States bonds; and, second, of the very profitable business of the railroads and their large dividends in cash and stock. General trade, where confined to legitimate business, continues good and very large in volume. There were during the week two important failures in the coffee-trade, the aggregate liabilities having been between \$3,500,000 and \$4,000,000; but these were the result of speculative operations having for their purpose a control of the price of coffee at a time when production had fairly overtaken the demand for the article. Silver closed at 52d. per ounce, and the bullion value here of the "buzzard dollar" at \$0.8662. Congress shows no disposition as yet to touch the silver question; nor has that prompt attention been given to refunding legislation which was promised at the very beginning of Congress.

A sharp correspondence between Senators Bayard and Conkling has been published. It appears that more than a month ago—that is, during the canvass—Mr. Bayard made a speech in Delaware which the *Philadelphia Press* of October 29 said contained a charge that Messrs. Conkling, Davis, Arthur, Jayne, and Boutwell were present in the Custom-house when the famous \$267,000 was extorted from Phelps, Dodge & Co., and that they then and there divided the money among themselves. Mr. Bayard wrote to the *Press* before November 20, pronouncing this report "false and malicious." But Mr. Conkling had on the 13th of November written to Mr. Bayard, calling his attention to the report, and asking if it was true "in form or in substance." Mr. Bayard answered that this was the first he had heard of it; that the report was so "grossly inaccurate" as "to cause the belief that it could not have been written by an honest person"; that he did denounce the moiety system and the share that accrued under it out of the Dodge case to the Collector, Surveyor, Naval Officer, and informer; and said that "Mr. Conkling, the senior Senator from New York, was understood to have received compensation as their counsel from Messrs. Arthur, Cornell, and Laflin for his services and assistance in the transaction." To this Mr. Conkling replied in a very angry tone, complaining that Mr. Bayard's explanation of what he did say was "a new, a quite different and erroneous statement," also "of a different nature, and, though less injurious, offensive and untrue," and professing ignorance of the authorities on which Mr. Bayard relied—namely, evidence taken before a committee of Congress and the letter of a Mr. Wood, an ex-Treasury official, in the *New York Sun* of October 27, 1880—and asking Mr. Bayard solemnly at the close whether he wished to "leave the matter here." To this Mr. Bayard rejoined that he had no further

"wish" about "the matter." Indeed, it is hard to see what Mr. Conkling can have expected him to "wish" about it.

The facts about Mr. Conkling's connection with the Dodge case are, that Mr. Dodge testified before a Committee of the House that when the moiety men, headed by Jayne and General Butler, were squeezing \$271,000 out of him, "Senator Conkling was in New York and in consultation with these gentlemen, at the time when for two days the question hung whether this thing should be settled or not, and hung simply on the fact that Mr. Laflin [the Naval Officer and one of the moiety men] said the crime was so enormous that, so far as he was concerned, he never would consent to settle it short of the payment of \$500,000. I think Senator Conkling advised him to do better." Whether "do better" means to take less or more, we do not know. Judge Davis also testified before the same Committee that when called into a private room in the Custom-house, to be consulted as District-Attorney by the moiety men—that is, the Collector, the Surveyor, the Naval Officer, and Jayne—as to whether they could forfeit the whole invoice in which the alleged fraud occurred or only the items in which it occurred—a very important question for them—he found "a gentleman" there closeted with them whom he was reluctant to name, but did subsequently name. That gentleman was Mr. Roscoe Conkling. It was not a nice situation for a gentleman or a Senator, but it was a quite fitting one for a Boss, inasmuch as the business on hand was the seizure of a large sum of money in which a band of faithful "workers" had a heavy interest. Why the Senator should now be annoyed at having attention called to the matter, it is hard to see. He is surely not ashamed of his trade. Judge Davis testified that at the consultation in question "Mr. Conkling read the statute, and said there could not be any doubt that the true construction of the statute was, that the whole of the invoice was forfeited, and that under such a state of facts he thought it the duty of the Collector to bring a suit for the entire amount of the invoices instead of the articles affected by the fraud." In another place the Judge said that Jayne admitted to him at one interview that the total amount lost to the Government by the alleged frauds was "sixteen hundred odd dollars."

The testimony was commented on in the House by Mr. Beck on behalf of the Committee, and, after explaining how the plunder was divided, he said that "how much Senator Conkling got as adviser of the Custom-house officers did not appear," the reason being that the moiety men declined to come before the Committee and give information on this point. The sum really divided among the officials was \$65,718 03 in all, out of \$271,000—not a bad haul even for those good old times. There was a curious controversy afterwards between Judge Davis, the outgoing District-Attorney, and Mr. George Bliss, his successor, about the District-Attorney's fee, a matter in which Mr. Bliss said or intimated that the Judge had not acted handsomely, inasmuch as he had offered to go halves with Mr. Bliss, when Mr. Bliss thought himself entitled to the whole amount, the case not having been finally settled until Mr. Davis was out of office. This was a fitting finale to an odious business, which the decent part of the public would fain forget, but which no friend of good government ought to forget. Mr. Bayard has done the community a service in recalling it.

We have described elsewhere the process by which Boss Kelly has been expelled from office. The vote in the Board of Aldermen received from the press the honors of a revolution, as far as space and florid description could do it. Kelly immediately offered his place with grim politeness to his successor, who refused to take possession for twenty-four hours, showing more consideration for Kelly than Kelly himself showed to his predecessor, Mr. Green, inasmuch as he started for Mr. Green's office immediately after receiving his appointment on something like the double, followed by a large mob. This summary method filled Mr. Green's mind, and not unnaturally, with some melancholy reflections on the small amount of consideration with which retir-

ing statesmen are treated in this community. Kelly made up for his politeness on this last occasion, however, by going to Tammany Hall in the evening and furnishing his followers with the most extraordinary entertainment probably ever offered in a great civilized city. He fiercely attacked the Mayor's personal appearance, treating his countenance as indicative of a low moral nature, and then addressed himself to the "Judases" in the Board of Aldermen. He gave a most deplorable description of their looks, and imitated their walk, which he described in one case as resembling the waddle of a duck, and also their way of speaking. One he ridiculed as a barber; another as a lager-beer dealer. One of his followers described another of them as an "unmitigated drunken loafer," who was made an alderman "to prevent his becoming a tramp." To appreciate this it must be remembered that the four "Judases" were selected and put into the Board of Aldermen by Kelly himself. They could not have been elected without his permission. This may give some idea of the pitch of contempt for the community to which the Bosses have attained. Kelly's outburst of rage and the gross personal abuse in which he indulged were, of course, much more violent and unbridled than Mr. Conkling's attack on Mr. Curtis in the Republican convention three years ago, but the latter was an equally good illustration of the Boss spirit and temper. No Boss can bear opposition or dissent from those of his own party, and, as a rule, never associates with persons whom he considers his equals. He has to be king of his company, and the company is almost always made up of dependants and hangers-on. Kelly's are probably of a lower grade than those of any other Boss, and when rebuked have to be rebuked in the vigorous and plain language of the jail-yard and the grog-shop in order to make them understand that he is displeased with them.

Congress has accomplished little during the week beyond the introduction of new bills, and in both branches the more pressing subjects of the session have been postponed by measures sure to invite prolonged debate and to excite lively antagonism. Senator Randolph's bill for the relief of Fitz-John Porter, authorizing the President to restore him to the army with rank not above colonel on the retired-list, and without back pay, and also reviving his right to vote and to hold office, was brought up on Monday, and led at once to a clash of constitutional views which made it seem prudent to accept a substitute proposed by Mr. Dawes. This was passed by a party vote. In the House, Senator Morgan's concurrent resolution to provide for the counting of the electoral vote was called up by Mr. Bicknell, who would have passed it under the previous question, but found the Republicans prepared to filibuster till the 4th of March if necessary, and was obliged to permit debate. Mr. Robeson bore the brunt of it on the Republican side with his usual ability and clearness of statement, and dextrously put himself on firm ground by confessing that during the abnormal period of reconstruction the party had made many unfortunate precedents which ought to be disregarded—the "twenty-second joint rule" among them. He fenced a good deal over the constitutional right of the Vice-President to mix judicial with his ministerial functions in counting the vote, but when pushed to the wall asserted with Chancellor Kent that that officer must "decide himself the questions which govern his ministerial actions," subject to revision by any competent tribunal which Congress in its legislative capacity, with the assent of the President, may appoint; and in the absence of any such provision his decision is irreversible. All sorts of hypothetical cases involving fraud and error were submitted to him for his discomfiture, but they were irrelevant except as witnessing the inconvenience and peril of the present unregulated procedure, which everybody acknowledges. The resolution was, in despair, temporarily withdrawn on Tuesday, giving way to Mr. Wood's Refunding Act.

To our mind the Republicans are perfectly right in demanding that that shall be effected by bill which it is now sought to enact by concurrent resolution, in evasion of the President's assent; and the resolution is so objectionable in itself that resistance to it cannot be justly stigmatized as obstructive. Moreover, there is no urgency in the matter, because it is inconceivable that the result of

the late election should be reversed or in any way impaired, so that there is ample time to perfect a measure as substantial and lasting as the Constitution itself. We may be perfectly sure that when this is attained Congress will not have been made a returning-board, nor will one House have the power of rejecting the vote of a State. The party objections to Mr. Edmunds's plan while the issue of the Presidential election was still uncertain no longer exist, and it is surprising that the South particularly is not ready for a settlement which puts on each State the burden of deciding disputes which render more than one set of returns possible. Mr. Robeson acutely pointed out that the Morgan-Bicknell resolution embodies two conflicting theories of Constitutional authority for the proposed judicial functions of Congress. In the case of single returns the affirmative vote of one House outweighs the negative vote of the other; whereas in the case of plural returns, the negative vote of one House outweighs the affirmative of the other.

Civil-service reform has received passing attention in the Senate through a resolution of Mr. Pendleton's referring that portion of the President's Message which related to it to the "Select Committee to Examine the Several Branches of the Civil Service," and instructing the committee "to report at an early day, by bill or otherwise." The fact that it was left to a Democrat to offer this resolution will not be overlooked. Significant, too, is the phraseology of the abstract of the President's recommendations, e.g., "the absolute freedom of official subordinates in refusing all demands upon their salary for political purposes, and in resisting all attempts to coerce their political action"—a form of statement which has all the weight of an argument. Equally forcible is the text of the resolution of the South Carolina House to which we alluded last week, and which unfortunately was killed in the Senate. The State's Senators and Representatives in Congress were requested and instructed, respectively, "to urge Congress to take such measures as may be expedient for the reformation of the civil service, so that tenure of office under the general Government may no longer be dependent upon party success, nor subject to levy by means of forced pecuniary contributions to any political party, and so that capacity and character shall be the one test of fitness for office, and the sole but certain guarantee of its tenure."

A Philadelphia copyright scheme has made its appearance at Washington in the shape of a petition for an international copyright law, which has been referred to the Committee of Ways and Means. It is proposed to make it lawful for any citizen of the United States to buy from the foreign author the copyright of any literary, dramatic, or artistic production, provided the copyrighted article shall be wholly manufactured in the United States, published here, and be for sale here within two months after the date of the publication abroad; in the case of translations the limit is extended to four months; and in that of dramatic compositions to six months from the date of the first representation abroad. The bill also provides that these privileges shall not be extended to countries which do not concede similar privileges to the United States, and shall cover only publications issued after the passage of the bill. Another section declares that any assignment of copyright secured under this law to any one not a citizen of the United States shall work a forfeiture of it, and that it shall be thereafter lawful for any one to sell or print the article as if no copyright had been obtained. To judge by the provisions with regard to dramatic works, the bill must have been very hastily drafted, as it seems to confound dramatic compositions with representations of dramatic works; but a more serious objection is the extremely short space of time which must elapse between the publication of general works of literature abroad and the publication here. For authors of established reputation, whose books are sure of a market, it might be possible to make an arrangement in advance with publishers in the United States; but in all other cases the time is ridiculously short, and would force the author to sell his copyright on the publishers' terms. This, however, would perhaps be regarded by certain Philadelphia economists as a very good result. The petition has some very good signatures outside of Philadelphia, and its ostensible purpose seems to be akin to that of the treaty

which is understood to be under discussion between the British Government and our own. The great advantage of settling the matter by treaty is that it will not be subject to constant modifications from the "pressure" of rival publishing houses upon Congress.

The grand jury of the United States Court at Richmond have indicted several judges of election for refusing to receive the votes of persons who presented tax-receipts alleged to have been illegally issued from the State Auditor's office. The law of Virginia makes these receipts a necessary qualification for voting, and Judge Hughes stated in reply to questions propounded by the grand jury that, although not signed by the Auditor in person, the receipts in question were legal, and that judges of election ought to be very careful how, on account of technical difficulties, they deprived citizens of the right to vote. He was further of opinion, according to the *Times* correspondent, that the grand jury should take into consideration and act upon the well-settled and salutary principle that the acts of public officers must be presumed to have been rightly and legally done until the contrary is made to appear; and also suggested that judges of election were bound to act upon this maxim at the polls. The defence of the indicted men seems to be that the receipts were signed by special tax-collectors appointed by State Auditor Massey (a Readjuster); that the law was not observed by Massey in commissioning these officers, and that before the election one Judge Clifton had issued an injunction restraining the collectors from issuing any new tax-receipts on this very ground. Upon this construction of the law most of the judges of election throughout the State ignored the disputed tax-receipts. The action of the grand jury has aroused some of that fierce passion of which the Richmond press has an abundant supply for every proper occasion. The *Whig* says that it has "no patience with these Thugs and demons, no matter whether they call themselves Southerners or Virginians." Thugs and demons are, it insists, "the enemies of mankind," and it calls for "the heavy hand of force" to be applied to them, on the further ground that they can apparently "neither be taught by human reason nor touched by human sympathy." "This is no time," it very justly observes, "this is no country, for free men to whine and fawn at the feet of the foes of freedom and political equality."

A singular spectacle has been witnessed during the week on the northern border of the Indian Territory. A colonizing expedition, headed by one Payne, and consisting of recruits gathered from many States under a sort of military discipline (being divided into eight companies, with a major in command, and not lacking a chaplain), endeavored to enter that part of the Territory to which the Indian title has been extinguished in favor of the Government, and which now goes by the name of Oklahoma, from Kansas. Unfortunately they were watched and accompanied in their movements by a cavalry force across the line, whose commander warned them not to enter in defiance of the President's proclamation. Although their answer was defiant, and they declared they would proceed at all hazards unless stopped by act of Congress, they wisely chose an east and west line of march in place of a southerly one. What made their situation all the more harrowing was the reports that at a little distance trains were going in by the fifties, while from Texas and Arkansas other squatters were entering unopposed, so that the fat of the land would be occupied before they could arrive on the scene. The fact that many of them had abandoned Western and Southern Kansas almost in a starving condition, on account of severe droughts, seemed in their eyes to establish their right to disregard the President's authority; but their incapacity to cope with the troops gradually told upon their spirits and their organization. Payne was deposed, and a cool head among them was despatched to Washington for relief. Not a few among them have been convicted of previous trespassing, and have been fined for it, but harsher treatment seems necessary for these law-breakers. They held religious services on Sunday as Cromwell's soldiery in Ireland might have done, and doubtless with that confidence in a kind Providence which led a ruffian's mistress the other day in this city, after furnishing him with red pepper for the policeman's eyes, to bid him trust in God and he would probably pull through.

Lord Granville has written a letter to Mr. Lowell on the subject of the Fortune Bay outrage and the dispute that has grown out of it, which seems to show that there is no reason why the difficulty should not be amicably settled at an early day. Over a year ago the British Government conceded that "if a local law has been inadvertently passed which is in any degree or respect at variance with the rights conferred on a foreign Power by the Treaty, the correction of the mistake committed, at the earliest period that its existence shall have been ascertained and recognized, is a matter of international obligation." Lord Granville now says that England will be glad to pay the damages caused by the Fortune Bay mob, and at the same time suggests a joint establishment of regulations under which the subjects of both Governments shall have the full and equal enjoyment of any fishing which under the Treaty is to be used in common by them. He insists, however, that under the Treaty the right to fish "in common with British subjects" means the right to fish subject to any reasonable local regulations to which British fishermen are subject. He therefore takes exception to the opinion expressed in Mr. Everts's letter to Mr. Welsh of September 28, 1878, "that the fishery rights of the United States conceded by the Treaty of Washington are to be exercised wholly free from the restraints and regulations of the statutes of Newfoundland." Whether a treaty right to fish "in common" means that there shall be no local regulations, or whether it means that any local regulations must be reasonable, seems an abstract point hardly worth further discussion, particularly as our fishermen are never likely to take the same view of the reasonableness of such regulations as that taken by the Canadian fishermen. As long as the matter is unregulated by treaty there will always be room for dispute on this head, while a commission could easily establish rules which should be binding indifferently on all parties.

From England there is little or no news but Irish news. The Government seems to be at last really alarmed by the progress of the Land League in making its authority felt and obeyed. It is reported to have established a sort of *imperium in imperio* by issuing licenses to traders and dealers as a certificate of good standing, by trying and sentencing persons to be "Boycotted," and by establishing courts for the trial of disputes between members, and by prohibiting the payment of any rent beyond the "Griffith valuation." We believe all this is much exaggerated, but the Irish mind is in a condition now when small incidents make very big stories, and, of course, every Land-Leaguer is much interested in spreading wonderful accounts of the power of the organization. Mr. Forster is said to be at last thoroughly alarmed, and to have insisted in the Cabinet on coercive measures, which it is now rumored will be resorted to by royal proclamation in advance of the meeting of Parliament. Of course the only coercive measure which can be resorted to in this way is arbitrary arrest or the suspension of the habeas corpus, which Parliament would subsequently cover by an act of indemnity. There can be little doubt that nothing would be so effective at so little cost of money and suffering. It would probably send all the minor Land-Leaguers flying in twenty-four hours, and relieve the peasantry from the pressure of an odious and demoralizing tyranny. It is still asserted, but with diminished confidence, that Messrs. Bright and Chamberlain will resign if anything like coercion is attempted. A thorough-going land-tenure bill will certainly be introduced when Parliament meets, providing for what is called the "three f's"—fair rents, fixity of tenure, and free sale.

Colonel Gordon, of Chinese fame, has been travelling in Ireland, and has published his observations. He gives an appalling account of the condition of the peasantry on the wild, windy, and wet western coast, and makes the proposal that the Government should buy out several counties, at a cost of \$400,000,000, for reasons similar to those which caused the purchase of negro freedom in the West Indies, and convert the whole into a crown estate. This is, of course, extravagant and impracticable; but the eagerness with which even the most absurd plans for solving the Irish problem are listened to by the English public shows that it has at last taken hold of the English mind, and that the solution is near at hand.

KELLY'S DISMISSAL.

THE rejoicings with which the overthrow of Kelly have been received, not in this city only but all over the country, show that the system of government which he has represented during the last four years is by no means in favor with the public, and that it is ready to accept any mode of getting such persons as he is out of office. For it must be admitted that the means by which he has been got out of office are not all that a reformer fond of perfect methods could desire. Kelly has, in fact, been ousted by a liberal and effective use of his own arts, or, in other words, by what is known in the political world as a "dicker." Theoretically, the financial officer or Comptroller of the city is appointed by the Mayor, by and with the consent of the Board of Aldermen, both being animated by a firm and constant desire to have the best attainable man in that place, as in all other places. As a matter of fact, however, the Board of Aldermen do not take this lofty view of their duties. The majority do not think of themselves as put in office in order to watch over the interests of the city, but in order to see that they and the party or section of the party from which they received their nomination get their proper share of the patronage. Consequently no nomination of the mayor's for any office secures confirmation unless the person nominated is the one whom the party managers have selected for the place, and this person, it is needless to say, is hardly ever the person best fitted for the place. Kelly was made Comptroller four years ago not because he was a person who in any enterprise requiring character, capacity, and experience would have been thought of for a high financial trust; in fact, his appointment, considering his history and antecedents, would, in any department of human activity except "politics," have had the air of a burlesque. He was made Comptroller because he was chief of the Tammany Society; and the business of the Tammany Society is not the maintenance or defence of any body of political doctrine, or the support of any particular line of policy, but the procurement of as many places as possible in the municipal service for the persons, known as "workers" or "the boys," who in the various wards are most skilful in managing primary meetings and drawing out votes on election day. Whoever is able to convince "the boys" that he is the man who will enable the greatest number of them to live out of the city treasury, is sure of their support, and their support makes him the leading man of the Tammany organization, and gives him the best chance of managing city affairs; or, in other words, makes him the city Boss. When Boss he distributes the nominations through the machinery of a county convention; receives and disburses the enormous sums levied by way of assessments, first, on persons nominated for city offices as a condition of their nomination, and, secondly, on the persons actually in office; but of these sums, we believe, he renders no account whatever. In addition to this he sees that the heads of departments whom he has put in their places, either by direct selection of his own or in virtue of a bargain with rival interests, discharge their obligations to him in the matter of employing his henchmen in subordinate places. It will thus be seen that, merely as Boss, Kelly was the head of a vast machine, and that his Comptrollership added little or nothing to the dignity or emoluments of his position. It was valuable to him mainly as a sign of his power which his followers would understand and appreciate, and as a means of directly controlling the patronage and seeing that it was distributed judiciously and according to contract.

The Board of Aldermen, as at present constituted, is simply an instrument for preventing the mayor from having the patronage all to himself. It has no real connection with the administration of city affairs in any sense in which the inhabitants of the city are interested in city affairs. It occupies itself in seeing that the mayor carries out the arrangements made by the Boss, and, therefore, to enable the mayor to overcome and repudiate and oust the Boss it was necessary to offer the Tammany aldermen something in the way of patronage which would be better for them than anything they were likely to get from the Boss. This is substantially what Mayor Cooper did. He promised the Tammany aldermen that if they confirmed the nomination of some one in Kelly's place they would not suffer, but would gain something by the result. Accordingly four of them, now known in political parlance as "Judases," joined the Republicans and anti-Tammany men in expel-

ling their old chief from his office and putting a new man in his place. It is true the new man is an excellent appointment, but the public must bear in mind that his fitness or his superiority to Kelly had nothing to do with getting him into Kelly's place. The "Judases" were not influenced in the least by that consideration. What influenced them was the fact that they were to make something personally by the change. Kelly and his friends say that they got their reward in money, by the direct receipt of a portion of what is called in "politics" a "boodle," which appears to be a corruption fund of considerable amount; but this we do not believe. The probabilities are that they are simply to have something good in the way of offices either for themselves or some of their followers, who will either divide their salary with them or help them in some way in their political career. In searching for the motives of the class who govern the city the investigator is greatly assisted by the fact that the *primum mobile* is always known to be personal gain; the points to which analysis has to be directed are the amount and the channel through which it is to come. An ordinary New York alderman would be much amused if you were to try to influence his vote by showing that it would contribute to make the city a more comfortable and cheaper dwelling-place. The conception of duty from which an argument of this sort is drawn has long ago vanished from the mind of the class who make municipal politics their business.

There is another feature in the affair to which we wish to direct attention. Not only was Kelly's expulsion from office obtained by means which, however warrantable under the circumstances, do not either indicate or promise any permanent improvement in municipal administration, but by means which in some degree indicate or promise a certain deterioration in municipal administration. One of the conditions of good administration is that the chief executive officer shall have his responsibility firmly fixed upon him by being allowed to select his chief subordinates, such as the heads of departments. Under the charter the New York mayor has this power, but by a device the Tweed Ring resorted to—we forget now for what purpose—the terms of a certain number of the principal subordinates (the comptroller among the number) expire a fortnight before the new mayor comes into office. Kelly, when he procured the nomination and election of Mr. Grace for the mayoralty, knew that his term in the comptrollership would expire before his own mayor came into office, but he relied on the inability of Mayor Cooper to get anybody confirmed in his place by the Board of Aldermen, and his own consequent ability to hold over until his own mayor came in on the 1st of January and reappointed him. This expectation has been disappointed in the manner we have described by means of a successful "dicker," and Mayor Cooper has thus been enabled to fill the most important places in the city government one fortnight before the new mayor's term begins. Consequently the new mayor, Mr. Grace, will be enabled to escape all responsibility whatever, and will have an excellent precedent to justify him in playing, or attempting to play, a similar trick on his successor. We do not use the term trick as a term of reprobation. The means resorted to in order to get rid of Kelly have, in the present condition of the city, most of the justifications of the deceptions practised on the enemy in time of war. They consist in the tricking of a trickster, the deception of a knave, the laying of an ambuscade for a ruthless foe. But the tricks of war belong to an exceptional state of things. They are intended to prepare for and lead to the restoration of good faith and loyalty in the regulation of human relations. The devices by which Kelly has been ousted, on the other hand, and over the success of which the country is rejoicing, have been practised in the ordinary working of the machinery of government, and have no end to their use marked out in advance, and are more likely to be used next year and the year after in the service of villany than of righteousness. It is pleasant to know that Mr. Grace has been deprived of the power of carrying out the bargain with Kelly by which in all probability he obtained his nomination. But it is not pleasant to remember that four years hence some other Mr. Grace may bring to naught a "popular rising" in favor of reform by a similar piece of strategy at the end of his term. In fine, we do not find that Kelly's career, odious as it appears, has stimulated the popular desire for such radical treatment of the municipal problem as will take city government out of politics, and make the Boss régime, if not impossible, much more difficult than it is.

There is still another aspect of Kelly's case which seems hardly to receive the attention it merits. As Boss, it is estimated by the *New York Herald*, which has very thoroughly explored the Boss system, that by assessments on candidates for city offices—that is, the sums they are called on to pay towards “expenses” when they receive the nomination, and assessments on their salaries after their election—there passes into the Boss's hands an annual revenue, of which he has to render no account, of from \$130,000 to \$150,000 a year, exclusive of the subscriptions of the hangers-on called members of the “General Committee,” who expect to get office. Kelly's enemies say that the outlay for the election expenses is not over half the receipts, and this, even if an exaggeration, indicates that in three or four good years a Boss may, without stealing a cent from the city treasury, as Tweed did, realize what is, for a man of the class from which Bosses usually come, a handsome fortune. Now, this levying of assessments on candidates and office-holders is simply a slightly-disguised sale of the offices, not exactly at auction to the highest bidder, but to selected purchasers at a fixed price. It tends, however, steadily to become a sale to the highest bidder. The drift of political practice in this city, as in other places, is towards giving nominations to candidates who are likely to make a large contribution to the campaign fund, without regard to other considerations; and in places like New York, where a nomination by one party is as good as election, of course there is a constant temptation to find out who among the aspirants to public office is willing to pay the best price for the realization of his desires, and let him have the place. The assessments on salaries after election are simply a mode of paying the price adapted to persons of small means, like the purchase of pianos and sewing-machines on the instalment system. Of course the effect of the transaction on the mind of the office-holder is to produce a sense of property in the office, and to present its tenure to him as dependent not on his manner of performing its duties, but on his punctual payments of his dues to the Boss, and then to make the attempt to apply the rules of private business to the transaction of public business seem odd, fantastic, “theoretical,” and, finally, a little ridiculous. The lesson that we should like to see the public extracting from Kelly's career is, therefore, this: that the system on which he has battered and grown into “great proportions” in this city differs in degree only, and not in kind, from that which the Republican party has established in the State at large, and which some managers are trying to introduce into other States. Mr. Kelly differs from Mr. Conkling, or any other State Boss now existing, in having at command an unusually large body of voters who pay no direct taxes, but have a great mass of taxable property within their reach, and are more ignorant and manageable than the bulk of country voters. But a civil service, such as the Federal and State civil service now is, officered by “workers,” and holding their places through party services and the payment of pecuniary contributions, is simply an earlier and less aggravated stage of municipal boss-ship. Such a system naturally produces Bosses. It can only be managed successfully by one man, and by a man of peculiar temper and capacity, and it involves necessarily the gradual disappearance from view of the interest of the community as the main object of government.

THE PROPOSED RELIEF OF THE SUPREME COURT.

THE recommendations of the Attorney-General on the subject of intermediate Federal courts are not by any means new; but it is so long since there has been any general discussion of the condition of business in the Supreme Court, or the means of relieving that tribunal of the pressure upon it, that they come with the force of novelty, and the President refers to them in his Message as if such suggestions had never been heard of before. The Attorney-General's plan is, substantially, that a Federal Court of Appeals, intermediate between the Circuit and District Courts and the Supreme Court, shall be formed, for the purpose of curtailing the number of appeals taken to the latter tribunal, and enabling it to clear off the alarming accumulation of arrears upon its calendar. This can be done, he says, by adding to the number of Circuit judges, who have under the present law the jurisdiction of a Supreme Court justice on circuit, though not themselves members of that court. An increase of Circuit judges (one in each Circuit, except the Second, where

an increase of two is recommended) would provide means by which intermediate courts could be formed consisting of two Circuit judges and the justice of the Supreme Court assigned to the circuit; the District judges being authorized to sit in case of the absence or disability of one of these. “An appellate court of such a character could safely be invested with a very large jurisdiction; and it would seem to me that no appeal should be permitted therefrom unless the sum in dispute should exceed \$10,000, or unless the judges themselves of such intermediate court should certify that the case was one of such difficulty that it might properly be argued in the Supreme Court.”

This seems to differ very little in principle from a bill to “reorganize the Judiciary of the United States” brought forward at Washington some four years ago, with the approval, it was said at the time, of the judges of the Supreme Court. That bill merged the Circuit and District Courts in one, made this new court a court of review, restricted appeals to cases above ten thousand dollars, to cases involving a construction of the Constitution, of a treaty, or of a law of the United States, and to cases “where the court shall certify that the adjudication involves a legal question of sufficient importance to require that the final decision thereof should be made by the Supreme Court.” A comparison of these two proposals shows that the only change in principle is that in the Attorney-General's present recommendations the saving clause reserving the right of appeal in all cases involving questions of constitutional and treaty law and federal statutes is omitted, and the right of appeal, even, in such cases is placed at the discretion of the intermediate tribunal. It seems to us that such a scheme as this involves too abrupt and radical a departure from the established principles on which justice is administered in this country to admit of approval, much as we sympathize with the general objects in view. The effect of it would undoubtedly be to assist greatly in clearing the docket of the Supreme Court, but it would do so at the risk of clearing away at the same time much of the dignity and power of the court, and of introducing great confusion in the law itself.

In the first place, it is a very serious objection to making the right of appeal discretionary with the court which tries the case that it has never in the long history of Anglo-Saxon jurisprudence been tried in practice, and this fact we may fairly infer is based upon some good reason. There is something, it must be confessed, rather startling in the bare notion of any court having a despotic power over the right of appeal, allowing it in some cases, refusing it in others, which to the ordinary mind may seem absolutely undistinguishable. For nearly a thousand years, in England and America, it has been the boast of the common law that the meanest suitor whose rights were invaded was entitled to the correction of errors committed in the trial of his case, by the court of last resort. To permit inferior judges to cut suitors off or admit them to this privilege at their arbitrary discretion is an innovation which ought to have strong practical considerations of convenience if it is to be adopted. But an examination of the probable effect in practice of such an innovation will show that while the only advantage secured would be the clearance of the docket of the Supreme Court, the practical disadvantages would be enormous. The great desideratum in any judicial system is that the decisions of the courts shall be uniform, and this is secured and guaranteed in England and the United States by the right of appeal. As long as suitors and lawyers understand that any question of law can be taken up to the highest court, this makes the rules of law laid down by the highest court binding on all inferior courts, and, so far as the law is settled by the highest court, puts an end to litigation. No one cares to contest a point of which he knows in advance what the decision must be. But with the right of ultimate appeal dependent upon the discretion of an intermediate court, this certainty (and no one will say that there is too much of it in our law) would no longer exist. The discretion, it must be remembered, is not the discretion of a single court, but of as many as there are circuits in the United States, and it may be confidently anticipated that this discretion will be differently administered in the different circuits. There will be a different discretion in Boston, in St. Louis, and New York. In one circuit the judges will think a case of “such difficulty” that it may be properly certified to the Supreme Court, because several eminent counsel are engaged in it; in another circuit because

it involves a political question; in another because a large amount of money is at stake; in another because, although a small amount is involved, the principle of law on which the case turns is a novel or curious one. In this way the judges in Boston may allow an appeal on precisely the same facts on which an appeal is denied in New York; and as the Supreme Court may reach a conclusion in the first case opposed to that reached by the court of review in the second, we may have two diametrically opposed rules of law administered by different courts of the same Government. The Supreme Court would, of course, adhere to its view of the law, and the court of review which denied the appeal to the views expressed by its own judges; and as judges are human there would be the very strongest inducement in their minds to deny all future appeals in similar cases, for in this way they would be able to make their decision a finality, at least within the limits of their own jurisdiction.

Meanwhile in other circuits the same process would be going slowly forward. Under the present system the decision of the Supreme Court would prevent all further litigation of the question involved, but not so under the new system. The judges of the other circuits, knowing, for example, that there was one rule of law at Washington and another in the Circuit Court at New York, and having the choice between the two, would in a similar case grant the right of appeal or deny it, as they liked or disliked the respective rules. For, as we said just now, under the present system it is not mere respect and admiration of the wisdom of the Supreme Court which induce Circuit judges to follow their opinions and treat them as binding all over the United States. It is the absolute and final power which resides in the Supreme Court to enforce its decisions that compels them to do so. Under the new system this would disappear, except in that limited number of cases in which the right of appeal is reserved owing to the fact that the amount of money involved is \$10,000. It is quite safe to assume that this large limit would of itself strike at the roots of nine-tenths of the appeals now taken; so that in nine-tenths of the cases in the federal courts the new Circuit Court would be the court of last resort. But the right of appeal, discretionary in all other cases, is an absolute right if \$10,000 are involved. At the same time precisely the same questions are every day involved in cases where \$50 are at stake and where the suit is brought to recover hundreds of thousands. Under the proposed system the \$10,000 case must go up to the Supreme Court if the parties choose to take it there, while the \$50 case need not go up if the judges do not wish it to go. Now, let us suppose that after a rule of law has been established in a circuit for a long time by the denial of the right to appeal, so that all suitors and lawyers regard it as final and unchangeable, a case arises which involves this same rule of law, and also the sum of \$10,000. An appeal must be allowed, the Supreme Court takes its own view of the law and upsets the rule, and declares that it is not and never has been law. Under these circumstances the Supreme Court decides the matter so far as the particular case is concerned, but whether in future cases *not* involving \$10,000, but involving the same rule of law, the court of review will follow the Supreme Court or its own previous decisions, will still be a matter of choice with the inferior court.

All this shows that the effect of the introduction of the discretionary right of appeals in these intermediate courts will probably be to create great confusion and uncertainty, and at the same time to make the Supreme Court a weaker court than it now is, a result which would be deplorable. It seems to us that a *sine qua non* of any scheme of reform is that the *right* of appeal to the Supreme Court should not be cut off in any case in which it now exists. The real secret of diminishing the number of final appeals is to make the intermediate court a strong one, and this can be easily done by creating a bench of judges in each circuit, as this bill proposes. We say nothing here of the advisability of the \$10,000 limit. This is, however, quite as objectionable as the discretionary right of appeal. It is undemocratic and grossly unfair that the right of appeal should be governed by such a test as to make the Supreme Court a tribunal of last resort only for wealthy litigants. But what we desire to insist upon chiefly here is the confusion and uncertainty which the scheme would introduce. There are already two systems of law in every State in the Union; to have three would be unbearable. Notwithstanding the theory that the Federal courts in

the various circuits follow the rules of law laid down by the State courts, they are absolutely bound by the decisions of the Supreme Court, and the result is now that in this city, in a considerable number of cases, the verdict in a law-suit will be for the plaintiff or defendant according as the action is commenced in the City Hall or in the Post-Office building. This makes it necessary that lawyers should understand both systems of law, and the difference between them. To lawyers this is of little moment. To suitors it means uncertainty, expense, and, worst of all, dissatisfaction and disgust with the administration of justice.

RECENT GERMAN HISTORIES.

BERLIN, November 24.

GERMAN historical literature has lately been enriched with so many valuable publications which are of general international interest that I am sure a short review of them in your columns will find a hearty welcome. The most important contribution to modern historiography is Leopold von Ranke's 'History of the World,' the first two volumes of which will be published before Christmas, under the title 'The Oldest Historical Group of Nations and the Greeks' ('Die älteste historische Völkergruppe und die Griechen'). In this work the celebrated author offers us the final result of more than fifty years of study. In the first volume he gives a synopsis of the origin and fall of the Asiatic kingdoms, Babylon, Palestine, Assyria, and Persia, and of Egypt, and then makes Greece the centre of his deductions and conclusions. The collision of the Persian empire with little Hellas, and the subsequent struggle of the leaders of the Athenian democracy down to the decisive moments of the Peloponnesian war, conclude the first volume, while the second is devoted to a fascinating sketch of the development of the Greek genius and intellect down to Alexander the Great; to the formation of Greek kingdoms on the one hand and to Carthage and Sicily on the other. The whole work will consist of five or six series, each containing two or three volumes, and a full series will be published yearly. There is a wonderful vitality and freshness of mind in Ranke, who as a true scholar has left his mark on the literature of our age, not only in his own works but by founding a school which does great credit to his name and to historiography in general. His disciples—men like Mommsen and Sybel, Curtius and Waitz, Giesebrecht and Röpell, Wattenbach and Max Duncker—occupy or have occupied the chairs of history in the German universities. The influence of the master as president of the Historical Commission of Munich, which every year publishes half a dozen most important works on German history, makes itself felt among the educated classes at large, and, by the encouragement given to younger aspiring talents, increases the circle of those who devote themselves to the study of history.

Ranke's first work, the 'History of the Teutonic and Roman Nations from 1494 to 1535' ('Geschichte der Germanischen und Romanischen Völker'), was published as early as 1824. He was the first who appreciated the value of the Italian, especially the Venetian, archives, and ransacked them for the benefit of modern history. His 'Germany in the Time of the Reformation,' chiefly based on the above sources, gives quite new ideas of the state of affairs in Europe at that period. English and French historians have followed in his track. Ranke's works thus far collected already fill forty-eight volumes. I mention among the most prominent his 'History of the Popes,' his 'Life of Wallenstein,' his 'French and English History in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries,' and last, not least, his 'Twelve Books of Prussian History' ('Zwölf Bücher Preussischer Geschichte'). He selects his heroes among the mighty of earth, the prominent rulers of the world, and less readily dwells on the lower and toiling classes; he best analyzes diplomatic and high political problems. Ranke, as a master of the delineation of historical and political characters and situations, fascinates his readers by never exhausting his subject, but by exhibiting its most remarkable traits from all the different points of view. Better than any other German historian he knows how to group and develop events and persons. It is, however, one of his few faults that he supposes too much knowledge in his readers, and disdains to go into the details of historical chronology.

Ranke is a man of low stature, not more than about five feet four inches high, erect of carriage and with piercing eyes, which do not betray his age. On December 21 he will be eighty-five years old. I remember having met Ranke in the fall of 1870 in the Thiergarten on a misty day, shortly after the surrender of Metz. "Well, sir," said he in the course of our conversation, "a great time, a noble time, a glorious time is this of ours! Do you see yonder in the woods the shades of Frederic William I. and of old Fritz appear and disappear? There they walk, there they nod happily to each other, there they are delighted with the grandsons and great-grandsons of the men of Rossbach and Leuthen." As if to increase the effect of his remarks, while speaking we heard the drum and fife and saw the glittering of the swords and helmets of a regiment of soldiers march-

ing at a distance through the park. Of your statesmen Ranke is most familiar with Washington and Jefferson, while of Alexander Hamilton and the *Federalist* he knows very little. Of your historical works he particularly praised Mr. Bancroft's latest volumes. The first three, he once said, are full of important information, but are also very tiresome; the words read as if they walked on stilts—nothing but Sunday-afternoon sermons. But the history as contained in volumes four to six he declared the best. "You perceive at once from their perusal," he continued, "that Bancroft had learned a great deal in the long interval between the publication of the third and fourth volumes, that he had become a man of practical affairs, and that consequently he was more given to facts than to declamation." Some time ago I met Mr. Geibel, Ranke's publisher and head of the celebrated firm of Duncker & Humblot. "Is it really true," I asked him, "that the old gentleman is going to publish his *History of the World*?" "Certainly," he replied; "a few weeks ago I called on him, and he showed me nearly twenty large portfolios, each containing the material for one volume, for all of which I contracted with him. He must have noticed my surprise at the greatness of his plans. 'You know,' Ranke said, 'I have lost my wife [the lady, an excellent Englishwoman with whom he had lived in the happiest matrimony, had suffered for years and required much of his attention], and so have more leisure now and can work more than in former times.' Really, despite his eighty-five years, he seems to be more industrious than ever before."

Another large and important work, which is planned and carried out in Ranke's spirit, is the 'Universal History' in monographs ('Allgemeine Geschichte in Einzeldarstellungen'), under the editorship of Professor W. Oncken, of Giessen, the same scholar who by his 'Oesterreich und Preussen im Befreiungskriege' (Berlin: G. Grote. 1876 and 1878. Two vols.) threw new light on the hitherto obscure European politics from 1813 to 1815. Oncken's contributors belong to the best authorities on their respective subjects, and the publishing house of G. Grote is not only celebrated for the splendid outfit it gives its books, but even more for its high artistic taste and command of the best printers and engravers on behalf of its publications. The work in question surpasses all its predecessors, and adds a new feature to German book-making. As you have often noticed the progress of this great standard history I will confine myself to a few remarks. Of the one hundred numbers of which it is planned to consist twenty-six have already appeared, so that within about six years the complete work may be in the hands of its subscribers. Professor Hertzberg, of Halle, has finished the history of Hellas and Rome, and is now publishing the second number of his Roman Emperors; Kugler, of Tübingen, has completed the history of the Crusades; Brückner, of Dorpat, the life and times of Peter the Great; and Philippson, of Bonn, the age of Louis XIV. Other subjects have been commenced and will be fully published in the course of the next year; others, again, are still only in preparation. Too much praise cannot be bestowed on the illustrations of the work. They are not mere paraphernalia, but essential commentaries and interpretations of the text, especially in the histories of ancient Egypt, India, and Persia. They are taken from the best originals—for India, for instance, the India Office at London has contributed some of its richest treasures; and they are engraved with such exquisite delicacy and beauty that they deserve to be ranked among the masterpieces of the art. No. 25 (Dümichen's "Egypt") contains no less than fourteen large woodcuts representing the scenery of the tropical Nile, the remains of the most prominent old temples, maps and statues. I am surprised that this great and instructive enterprise has as yet not found an American publisher, the more so as I know that Mr. C. Müller, the proprietor of the firm of G. Grote, has sold *cliches* of the originals to Russian and Italian translators, giving them the text into the bargain. I am sure that if not the whole at once, at least single parts, like Dümichen's Egypt, Lefmann's India, Justi's Persia, or Brückner's Peter the Great, apart from their interesting and instructive text, would soon find their way to every parlor-table, if not to the household library, of most families.

As an excellent history for the general reader I would mention, in conclusion, the illustrated 'History of the World,' by Otto von Corvin, which the firm of Otto Spamer, in Leipzig, is now issuing in a new edition. The book was originally written by Messrs. Corvin and Held some thirty-five years ago. In spite of a large competition of works of a similar character, such as Becker, Schlosser, Weber, and others, it has found a sale of 5,000 copies in Germany and Austria alone. The new edition will consist of eight volumes, three of which are completed. The first two, devoted to ancient history, are written by Mr. Corvin; the third comprises the first part of the Middle Ages down to the Crusades, and is written by Messrs. Dieffenbach and Voigt. Mr. Corvin is an author who has had a very eventful life. He is now nearly seventy years old, but is still as fresh and vivacious as a man in the prime of life. Formerly a Prussian officer, then a revolutionary leader in Berlin, he was taken prisoner in Rastadt and sentenced to seven years' solitary confinement in the penitentiary. After having served his term he went to London, and from there, as war correspondent for the *London Times*, to the United States, where for a time he was colonel of a volunteer regiment and

afterwards clerk in the Treasury Department. During the war of 1870 he went to France as war correspondent. His letters created a great sensation by their piquant tone, their vivid description, and their correct information. In his old age he has again taken up the work of his youth and rewritten the greater part of his history. It does not pretend to be original, but it is based upon the best sources and attains a very high standard of historical narration. Corvin has a wonderful faculty for dissolving real or apparent contradictions, and for drawing life-like pictures. The history of Egypt has been the study of his life; this chapter and that relating to the kingdoms of middle Asia are the best in the book, which is in all parts splendidly and attractively equipped, and is comparatively very cheap. ??

Correspondence.

PENSIONING PRESIDENTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: The idea of pensioning ex-Presidents is pleasing to the imagination, but is it wise to make the office of President of the United States a greater prize than it now is? And if that office is provided with a retiring pension, should not all elective public servants, according to their grade, in conformity to the equality principle of our Government, be pensioned? Though the prize has not always been drawn by our most eminently gifted men, yet nearly all of them have been more than willing to be President; and for the future, without any change of system, we are sure to have a sufficient number of able candidates.

Ardent politicians may desire a retiring pension for their President, as he would not have to exercise prudence to provide for his future, and "pressure," if not inclination, would require him, beyond his immediate necessities, to contribute his salary to the election (perhaps corruption) funds.

These reasons probably had influence with the founders of our Government, as they did not intend that the party which chanced to control the offices should be helped to perpetuate its power; and the distinguished men of a former generation that have been Presidents would not have been pleased to know that pity for them would be sought by exhibiting their straitened circumstances.

V.

CAMPAIGN BRIBERY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Your correspondent, "A. R.," in your issue of December 9, regards the statements of "M. C.," in No. 803, as incredible, and then claims to be better qualified to speak on the subject of "campaign bribery," giving as reasons what, to any one acquainted with the ways of "practical politicians," is convincing that he really knows very little of the true inwardness of politics. One who openly votes a split ticket never receives the confidence of bosses, and though they may allow him to do hack-work of the innocent sort, they would not let him into the inner circle or acquaint him with the secret-service fund. In their own cant phrase he is too much of a "statesman" to be trusted. If he would visit the Hudson River counties, commencing at Saratoga and going down through to New York, and put himself in confidential relations with the managers, or even question the well-informed, he would find "M. C.'s" statement not only confirmed, but even a faint sketch of the truth, and would go home a wiser and sadder man, rejoicing that political tendencies had not ripened in Western New York.

He would find that the largest amount of the money raised for campaign purposes was devoted to the direct purchase of votes at the polls on election day; that in each election-district in the country and in the cities each party had a share of this money proportionate to the "float," with a treasurer to disburse it and workers to capture "the eggmen," as they are called; that these "eggmen" go from one side to the other, and finally take the tickets from the side offering the largest price, deposit them, and receive their pay in cash from the treasurer (if prices are about equal the voter votes his preference, but insists on his pay); that votes range from \$1, at a local election where there is no serious contest, to \$25, when the fighting is forced; that in some towns and wards one-half the voters are in the market, many of them well-to-do farmers or mechanics. The money is raised by assessments on office-holders and candidates and by subscriptions of the moneyed men in each party, and aggregates several thousand dollars, and is distributed the Monday before election to the several election districts of the counties along with the tickets. He would find that church officials and church members, as well as other men otherwise reputable, engage freely in subscribing for or disbursing the corruption fund, with only concealment sufficient to keep the other side from a knowledge of their resources or some officious reformer from making a disturbance. He would find that district-attorneys, judges, sheriffs, and most grand-jurors are more or less implicated in the business, and so many others that it were as idle to seek to

suppress it by law as to indict a whole community. He would find that it ordinarily costs a candidate for a county office to be elected one-third of what he expects to receive during his whole term, and as legislative positions seem to have a peculiar attraction for wealthy men, that election to them costs several times the amount received from the State or national treasury. A candidate who will not contribute handsomely in all ordinary circumstances might as well withdraw at once, if the candidate pitted against him will. No one but a rich man or a man with rich friends, or backed by a powerful pecuniary interest that will furnish from \$5,000 to \$25,000, can run for legislative office with much expectation of success if there is a serious contest; and this fact is recognized as axiomatic with nominating conventions governing both parties in this section of the State. In the community where I live the purchasable vote is put at 800 out of a total poll of 2,300, by the best informed men of both parties, and the amount expended at the last election as \$3,000, by those who ought to know and whose figures are the lowest of any. Each party vies with the other in this business, and the only difference is said to be that the Republicans can buy the purchasable colored vote a little cheaper, and the Democrats the purchasable white vote. If "A. R." visits the eastern part of the State he will exclaim, with the Queen of Sheba, "Behold, the half was not told me."

That the western part of the State is slower in its political development is probably owing to the fact that the moneyed classes and the political majority have been on the same side, and that the majority has been so large as to prevent any real contest over the local offices. In the east the conditions are reversed, the counties being naturally Democratic, and that majority being composed of many to whom a pecuniary reward on election day is an overpowering temptation. It is an abuse that has been continuously and on a considerable scale practised by both parties at all elections for over fifty years in this county, so I am informed by older people. For the last fifteen or twenty years it has grown to an enormous extent, and debars the poor man and the honorable from active participation in politics.

W. P.

HUDSON RIVER COUNTIES.

THE COST OF A CHANGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Had a Democratic President been elected the country was threatened with an entire change of the officials in the public service, both at home and abroad. From this, in all probability, we are saved by the election of General Garfield. Having a little curiosity to ascertain how much a change in our foreign service would cost the Government in money actually expended, taking no account of the great loss in other ways both to the Government and to individuals by such a number of inexperienced officials coming into office at one time, on referring to the Register of the State Department and to the Consular Manual I have made the following calculations. The number of salaried officials in the consular service of the United States is 169, and the total amount of their salaries is \$366,500. In this I do not count the thirteen consular clerks, with an aggregate salary of \$14,400; nor the numerous consuls, consular agents, and commercial agents who are paid out of the fees which they receive. By a wise provision of law consular and diplomatic officers appointed from the United States, as they receive no outfit, infit, or travelling expenses, are allowed salary during thirty days in America while receiving their instructions, and during the period occupied in going to their post as well as in returning from it in case of their recall. This period of transit, as it is called, varies, according to the distance, from three days, in the case of Canada, to fifty or sixty, and even more, as in the case of China, Siam, and other remote countries. This allowance, although generally fair, is by no means liberal. No man is expected to travel as fast as the letter-post, and allowances have to be made in certain cases for necessary detentions while waiting for steamers, etc. As the old consul usually remains at his post until the new one arrives, and as even in case he does not his salary is received by the vice-consul, it is evident that during the thirty days when the new consul is receiving instructions at Washington, during the transit to his post, and during the transit home of his predecessor, double salaries are being paid. On a careful estimate of these double salaries, according to the time allowed by the Government and the methods of calculation used in the Treasury Department, I find that if all the salaried consular officers were removed the extra salary thus paid would amount to \$85,080 89, or more than 23 per cent. of the salaries for the year. There is no extra expense attending the change of consuls paid out of their fees, for they receive no salary until they take possession of their posts.

By making a similar calculation for the diplomatic service, I find that excluding interpreters at Peking, Tokio, and Constantinople, who could not be changed from the difficulty of replacing them, there are forty-four salaried diplomatic officers in the service of the United States, whose total salaries amount to \$315,500. The actual cost of the change of these officers would amount to \$74,867 38, or more than 23 per cent. of their annual salaries. An entire change of the officials in the consular and diplomatic service would, therefore,

entail upon the Government the actual expenditure of \$159,948 27, the most of which would come within the present fiscal year, for which no preparation has been made in the appropriation bill. This sum would considerably exceed the revenue brought to the Government by the consular service after all expenses have been paid. In addition to this there would be a certain expense, amounting to several thousand dollars, for losses on exchange, which fall on the Government and not on the consuls.

If, however, the Government can afford to spend this sum of \$160,000 every four years, the efficiency of the service would be much more promoted by spreading the expenditure over four years, devoting \$40,000 annually to increasing the salaries of diplomatic officers and unpaid consuls. It is not generally remembered that the scale of consular salaries was fixed in 1856, and that little change has been made since that time, although the cost of living in nearly every foreign town has increased in the last twenty-five years from 25 to 100 per cent.

WEISSNIGHTWO, November 20.

X. Y.

Notes.

THE members of the family of the late Lucretia Mott are preparing her biography, and would be glad to have the originals or copies of any of her letters, which will be returned if desired. They should be sent to Mrs. Maria Mott Davis, Oak Lane, Station A, Philadelphia.—Hall & Whiting, Boston, will publish early next month 'The House of Ross,' a volume of tales by the author of 'Bart Ridgeley.'—A. S. Barnes & Co. publish immediately a work on inter-oceanic transit across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec since the time of Cortez, by A. D. Anderson, author of 'The Silver Country, or the Great Southwest.'—We can cordially recommend a little brochure 'On Giving Names to Towns and Streets,' by the Rev. James Freeman Clarke (Boston: Lockwood, Brooks & Co.)—Is Consumption Contagious, and Can it be Transmitted by Means of Food? is the startling title of a small volume of which Dr. Herbert C. Clapp is the author, and Otis Clapp & Son, Boston, the publishers. The subject is too little regarded either by the profession or the laity. It is well treated by Dr. Clapp, who brings it up to the present time, as viewed under the light of modern science. His object is to convince people of the infectious nature of consumption. We regret that he has not thought it well to suggest rules for the guidance of those exposed to this deleterious influence, or for avoiding it wholly. It is true that he refers favorably to brief rules given by another; but a final chapter, upon the means of warding-off or of treating the disease, would have been, we think, not inappropriate.—*Nature* for Nov. 18 announces the formation of a Sanitary Assurance Association, whose object is "to give persons who place their houses on the Assurance Register certificates that their houses are in a satisfactory sanitary condition, and to endorse such certificates from time to time," of course after renewed inspection. It will also report upon the plans of new houses. It starts under the best auspices.—Every amateur who has attained a certain proficiency on the instrument may hope to profit by 'Daily Studies on the Piano,' by Rafael Joseffy (New York: E. Schuberth & Co.)—The report of the Chesapeake Zoölogical Laboratory of the Johns Hopkins University shows that last season, the third, was spent at Beaufort, N. C., a station singularly rich in opportunities for studying a sea fauna sharply distinguished from that north of Cape Hatteras. The development of the crustacea was the chief study of the Laboratory.—With Part 23 of Oncken's 'Allgemeine Geschichte' (New York: Westermann) begins Dr. Felix Dahn's monograph on the Primitive History of the Germanic and Romance Peoples. In short sections the subject is opened in a methodical and fascinating manner, and while the text is interspersed with woodcuts of prehistoric implements, weapons, ornaments, tombs, etc., full-page illustrations beautifully represent Ravenna mosaics, there is an imaginary restoration of the pile-village, and a colored map shows the border-line between Germans and Romans in the time of Trajan.—Lockwood, Brooks & Co. have issued a "Poet's Calendar" for the new year, in which each day is provided with a quotation from the four New England poets, Longfellow, Whittier, Bryant, and Lowell.—To the admirers of Salvini Mr. F. Gutekunst, Philadelphia, offers a fine imperial photographic portrait of the actor taken during a previous visit to this country.

—Scribner & Co. this year, as last, issue a portfolio of 'Proof Impressions from Scribner's Monthly and St. Nicholas.' There are fifty plates, and the criticism to be made upon them, as compared with their predecessor, is, perhaps, forestalled by the announcement that the main consideration of the present collection has not been an exposition of skill and delicacy of engraving and printing, but "the artistic value of the designs," which accounts for the less striking impression left by the drawings as triumphs of wood engraving. The compensation suggested, however, is, so far as our memory goes, ample, and it should also be added that in technical regards the difference to be atoned for is of the slightest. The pictures are on loose sheets and printed

in brown, grey, and red tints as well as in black. As always, it is evident that Mr. Cole has been entrusted with the most important work, and his renderings of Millet's "The Sower," the portraits of Poe and Savonarola, Raphael's "Apollo and Marsyas," and a landscape by A. H. Thayer are, perhaps, the most interesting of the plates. There are but fifteen hundred copies in the edition and the retail price is five dollars each. The Messrs. Appleton's contribution to the fine-art holiday literature is a new edition of Mr. G. W. Sheldon's "American Painters," an elegantly-attired quarto, adorned with one hundred and four woodcuts from pictures by the artists treated in the text. The text is to be commended for the preference manifested to have the painter describe himself, his methods, and his general views. This adds piquancy in some instances, a human interest in all, and has the especially happy effect of necessarily curtailing the critical exposition of the author, which, under the peculiar circumstances, could not fail to be somewhat incomplete and unsatisfactory. We may also without impropriety, in connection with these works, notice the first volume of Woltmann and Woermann's "History of Ancient, Early Christian, and Mediaeval Painting," just published by Dodd, Mead & Co., though it has, of course, less a holiday interest than a permanent value, and belongs in the holiday category chiefly by reason of its elaborate dress and the evident pains expended upon the publishers' share in its presentation. It is edited by Professor Sidney Colvin, of Cambridge, England, who has, however, only dared to "venture upon an occasional abridgment or transposition," as he announces in his preface, and upon certain not too important modifications in the way of details of arrangement, the headings which indicate them, and so on. Condensation here and there will undoubtedly occur to the reader who is not a special student as a part of editing unwisely neglected; but it is to be said in reply that it is for the special student that the work is designed. Elaboration, at all events, cannot go further, and certainly the art of painting is as worthy of elaborate historical treatment as most other subjects which receive it. What one wants in addition is a nice sense of critical discrimination as to what is primary and what is secondary, say, but that is very likely incompatible with the scheme, which is ultra-Teutonic, Dr. Woltmann having been professor at the Imperial University of Strassburg and Dr. Woermann being a Düsseldorf professor of fine arts. Professor Colvin, at any rate, says it would be presumption for him to tamper with their judgments as well as their facts. The illustrations are abundant, but in great measure not unfamiliar woodcuts. To the above we may add the publication by Lippincott of Buchanan Read's "Drifting" ("My soul to-day is far away, sailing the Vesuvian Bay"), with designs, some of them clever and pretty, by Miss L. B. Humphrey, and an issue by Peterson of Watson's "Beautiful Snow, and Other Poems"—for the latter of which especially the season must be held mainly responsible.

—Mr. W. Hamilton Gibson's "Pastoral Days" (Harpers) deserves and will hold a distinct place in the literature of rural New England. His point of view is not that of the philosopher, nor even of the full-grown man humoring himself with reminiscence; it is that of the boy who has never ceased to be a boy, who does not call up old scenes but still lives in them, and whose portraiture of country life a generation ago is no more an effort than to tell the exact location of "Hometown" or the real name of "Amos Shoopegg." This happy continuity of feeling determines the style of the narrative, which is not academic, but on the other hand is by no means devoid of literary skill, and is an easy outpouring kept well on the hither side of gush, though in the best sense of the word it might occasionally be called rhapsodical. Its character-painting is excellent, and all the changes and circumstances of the New England year are truthfully described. So much is to be said of the text, already known to readers of *Harper's Magazine*. The illustrations, by the same hand, are not more genuine evidence of love of and familiarity with nature, but they are more remarkable as art than the letter-press as literature. Mr. Gibson's drawings are marked by a rare grace and delicacy as well as fidelity, and he has been seconded by the best engravers of this metropolis. Whether the subject be an apple orchard, or the white balls of the dandelion, or the maiden-hair or golden-rod or blue-flag, or a landscape for every season, the result is admirable and, considering the work of contemporary designers, perhaps unique. The tangle of wayside growths and of thickets is a favorite theme with this artist; feathery and furry game he delineates with somewhat less of mastery as well as frequency, and his specimen types of population are not to be compared with his flower sketches. The care bestowed by the publishers on the manufacture of this beautiful book has, we believe, never been surpassed in the Franklin Square establishment.

—"Faust" seems just now to be the order of the day in musical circles. Four performances of Boito's "Mefistofele" and one of Gounod's "Faust" by the Italian Opera Company, three of Berlioz's "Damnation" by the Symphony Society, and two of Liszt's "Faust Symphony" by the Philharmonic Society were the principal features of the musical events of the last two weeks. The second concert of the Philharmonic Society, which took place on Saturday last, presented a very sober programme, which was scarcely relieved by the two bright movements of Schubert's unfinished Symphony in B

minor. One must regret that this lovely work, conceived with so much art and begun with so much skill, was never completed. It belongs to the noblest relics of the great master of sweet melodies, and it would be difficult to surpass the beauties of some of the orchestral effects. The novelty of the evening was a scene from the first act of Wagner's "Siegfried," which naturally proved a disappointment. It would be very difficult to find in the Trilogy a scene less suited for a concert performance than the highly dramatic act which Mr. Thomas selected on Saturday. *Siegfried*, the hero, is welding the sword, Nothung, which had been broken in the combat between his father and *Hunding*. *Mime*, the treacherous dwarf, is watching him, plotting how to possess himself of the famous blade. The blowing of the bellows, the ring of the anvil as *Siegfried*'s mighty arm brings down the heavy hammer, the hissing of the hot steel as he dips it into water, these and other incidents are admirably represented in Wagner's music, and *Siegfried*'s bright song, "Nothing! Nothing, cutting sword!" is one of the most thrilling numbers in the opera; but the extreme beauty of the situation is lost without the stage apparatus, and to many the whole scene must have been perfectly bewildering. The most serious defect on Saturday was the highly unsatisfactory way in which the vocal solo parts were filled. The two gentlemen to whom the parts of *Siegfried* and *Mime* were entrusted were utterly unqualified for their task, and their efforts to make themselves heard above the swelling effects of Wagner's orchestra, with every wind instrument doubled, were positively painful. Liszt's "Faust Symphony," which has not been heard for some years, concluded the performance.

—Students of paleontology, and paleontologists generally, will learn with satisfaction that a further instalment of Zittel and Schimper's "Handbuch der Paläontologie" has lately been furnished by its distinguished Munich editor. This work, with perhaps one exception the most important and comprehensive general treatise on the subject that has as yet been published in any language, was commenced in 1876, and, although it has already reached the fourth year of its publication, only five parts, or considerably less than one-half of the whole number, have thus far made their appearance. This slow progress—partly due to the general difficulties which attend such a laborious undertaking, and partly to the profusion of paleontological papers scattered indiscriminately throughout the transactions of learned societies, and which are barely touched by that class of authors whose "text-books" on zoology or geology appear to spring up spontaneously—of course impairs a good deal the value of the undertaking, even though each separate section be supplemented with material intended to bring the entire subject up to date. The want of a suitable treatise, intended as well for the beginner as for the more advanced student or practical worker, has long been felt, and it is therefore to be hoped that the present work will receive such encouragement and assistance as will ensure it an early and positive completion. It may be remarked, as a singular fact in connection with the literature of the science, that there are altogether in the English language but three general treatises of any merit (two of which are decidedly antiquated), those of Mantell, Owen, and Nicholson, that can claim a place beside the almost innumerable elementary and advanced text-books that have appeared on the kindred sciences. Part 1 (vol. i.) of the hand-book before us deals with the Protozoa, and is prefaced with an introduction bearing on the principles of paleontological science and a historical sketch. Part 2 embraces the sponges (the special study of which delayed the publication more than two years), corals, and polyps; Part 3, the urchins and worms; and Part 4, a portion of the molluscan animals (Bryozoa and Brachiopoda). The recent death of Prof. Schimper, upon whom devolved that portion of the work pertaining to paleophytology, or fossil botany, will doubtless to some extent interfere with the plan of vol. ii., but its successful completion is assured by the co-operation of Prof. Schenk, of Leipzig. The first and only part yet published treats of the Thallophyta, mosses, and ferns. It is needless to advert to the special merits of the work, as the names of the editor and assistant-editors are a sufficient guarantee for its excellence.

—A correspondent writes us as follows:

"In the *Nation* of December 2, referring to the distribution of the zoological collections of the *Challenger* to foreign naturalists, and speaking of the 'national rights of scientific men,' you say 'it may yet be doubtful whether it would not have been judicious to attach greater national importance to an enterprise upon which the British Government so lavishly bestowed its favors.' Setting aside the question whether national importance was not best consulted by placing the collections in the most competent hands, you omit to mention that those who so bitterly attacked Sir Wyville Thomson for the course he pursued, forgot to state that he was induced to adopt it in order to avoid the inevitable confusion which was sure to follow the simultaneous publication of the results of the American deep-sea dredging expeditions carried on before and after the *Challenger*, under the auspices of the United States Coast Survey. Sir Wyville Thomson and Mr. Agassiz agreed to select the most eminent specialists, independent of nationality, and to consign to them the materials of their respective expeditions, to be worked up *pari passu*. It was hardly to be expected that without some such understanding the Americans would deliberately place in the hands even of pre-eminent English naturalists the magnificent collections they brought together, and

which complement in so remarkable a manner those of the *Challenger*. It was the only course possible, with reference not only to the best interests of biology but of those of the collections also. The confusion which must arise from the independent investigations of a few groups from both collections, rendered necessary by the attacks on Sir Wyville Thomson's course, will form a good basis by which to measure the value of the national rights of scientific men."

—The condemnation and dissolution of the Order of Templars in 1312 are events which have called out a great amount of controversy, and of sympathy among those who have not been convinced of the truth of the charges. On the whole, we believe the current of opinion has been against their truth, at least in their extreme form; neither Philip the Fair nor Clement V. ranks high enough in character to give weight to his position as accuser. Professor Prutz has recently published in Berlin an elaborate examination of the whole question, entitled '*Geheimlehre und Geheimstatuten des Tempelherren Ordens*,' in which he apparently proves the worst of the charges. The conclusion to which Professor Prutz comes is essentially the same as Mr. Hallam's, stated clearly and forcibly in note xv. to the first chapter of his '*Middle Ages*.' The heresy of the Templars, he says, was taken from that of "the most objectionable sect, the Luciferians," and grew up among them at the time of their stay in the Holy Land, between 1219 and 1250, at Athlit, their capital. They regarded Christ as an impostor and directed their worship towards the evil spirit, of whom they had an idol in the shape of a brazen head. The charges of impure practices appear also to be fully made out. The second part of Professor Prutz's book proves that the '*Geheimstatuten des Ordens der Tempelherren*,' published by Dr. Merzdorf, in Halle, in 1877, are not genuine: a principal argument is that these are deistic in character, while the real dogmas of the Knights Templars were dualistic or Manichean.

—The death of the Comte de Chambord will not, as is sometimes asserted, end the house of Bourbon, for the Orleans are as much Bourbons as himself; but another royal family, of almost equal fame, is really at the point of extinction. This is the house of Orange-Nassau, which, under one title or another, has reigned in the Netherlands since the death of the sovereign known in history as the Prince of Orange *par excellence*. The male members of the family are now but three in number—the king, aged 63, his uncle Frederic, aged 83, and the crown-prince, aged 39. The latter is unmarried and will continue so, being, it is said, of somewhat unsound mind. The King's recent marriage has been blessed with a daughter, but she would not inherit the crown if her great-uncle should succeed her father, as her claim would then yield to that of his own daughter, the Princess of Wied. In either case a new family would come to the throne. In the Grand-duchy of Luxemburg, united to the crown of Holland as Hanover was to that of England, women are entirely excluded from the succession, and the heir-at-law is the (in 1866) dispossessed Duke of Nassau. The succession to the Duchy of Brunswick is a frequent subject of discussion in the German papers, the heir of the aged duke being the *de jure* king of Hanover. Bismarck's respect for public law is hardly great enough to permit the enthronement of two irreconcilable princes; but the smaller states may yet be able to prevent the absorption of their territories by Prussia. The succession of the Duke of Edinburgh to the ducal crown of Coburg is not likely to be opposed.

—Dr. Fritz Embacher has had the happy idea of arranging the more important travels of the present century in a set of tables divided horizontally by countries and arranged perpendicularly by dates. Thus on two pages, facing one another, are given the travels in Africa, divided into N. W., Tripolitania, S. W., N. E., and S. E. with the Cape, from 1801 (with a few preliminary lines, noting five or six chief discoveries in previous centuries) to 1837; the next two pages go to 1854, and so on to 1860, 1866, 1873, 1876, 1879. Similarly six pairs of pages are devoted to "Australia, Oceania, and America," and ten to the "Polar Regions and Asia." The work will be very useful to geographical students, but one cannot help regretting that the table was not made to extend back to the beginning of modern geographical discovery, which would not have more than trebled its bulk and its moderate cost (four marks).

—Under the title of '*Trois Théâtres*' (Paris: Calmann Lévy; New York: F. W. Christern) M. Léopold Lacour has gathered from one of the reviews his studies of the plays of Émile Augier, of Alexandre Dumas, *father*, and of Victorien Sardou. In his preface he announces his intention hereafter to take up M. Labiche, MM. Meilhac and Halévy, and M. Gondinet—the last a very clever dramatist, almost wholly unknown in this country. In '*Trois Théâtres*' ("theatre" in the sense of the collected dramatic works of an author) M. Lacour considers the realistic drama of the past quarter of a century, the drama which followed close upon the success of the "*Dame aux Camélias*," and of which the best specimens are the "*Fils de Giboyer*" of M. Augier, the "*Demi-Monde*" of M. Dumas, and the "*Famille Benoiton*" of M. Sardou. Obviously this critic prefers M. Sardou to his two rivals, and even M. Dumas to M. Augier; but he is frank enough to show reasons for

the order in which the best French criticism holds them, and which is the exact reverse of his own predilection. It is not a little amusing to see that he takes Dumas quite seriously, as if he were a consistent philosopher declaring a new truth.

TREVELYAN'S CHARLES JAMES FOX.*

II.

AS readers lay down the '*Early History of Charles James Fox*' they may well ask themselves, What is the estimate they are to form of the Whig leader? Mr. Trevelyan is ready with a reply. Fox was, according to his latest biographer, "our first great statesman of the modern school." The phrase is a good one as far as sound goes, but there is a difficulty in giving it any meaning consistent with the facts of Fox's life. By the modern school is intended, we presume, the class of statesmen who have held power since the first Reform Bill, such as Russell, Peel, Aberdeen, Palmerston, the present Lord Derby, and the like. How are we to find a place for Fox amongst this body of serious and respectable politicians? With Lord Melbourne, indeed, he might claim kindred, but his lordship, in spite of his too frequent oaths and his late rising, was a quiet, humdrum, business-like person compared with the youthful rhetorician who found some recreation from his serious anxieties at Brooks's in playing at politics in the House of Commons. The truth is that the most marked characteristics of modern statesmanship have no relation to Fox but that of contrast. The members of a modern ministry are, or invariably affect to be, men of sound weight and respectability. Fox's escapades shocked a society which was not straight-laced. From the time of Pitt downwards the profession of politics has become more and more of a serious and, to say the truth, a rather dull trade. To debate the minute details of uninteresting measures is the chief occupation of M.P.'s in the nineteenth century. Can any one bring himself to imagine that Fox, who even when in power seems to have sat up late of a night at Brooks's, and to have gone down late in the morning to his office, was the parent of the Parliamentary officials who work as hard to serve the public as a set of merchants' clerks to gain the favor of their employer?

A marked feature, again, of modern public life in England is the attention shown by leading politicians to social and economical questions. Of all the contemporaries of Fox, not one, except Lord Shelburne, would have found himself in sympathy with the sociological interest of the present day. Can any one fancy the Whig dandy presiding at a social-science congress or delivering a lecture, say on temperance, to a body of Sunday-school children hungering and thirsting for the buns and tea which are to make up for the dullness of the distinguished gentleman's address? Another note of modern English statecraft is almost instinctive deference to national as contrasted with Parliamentary opinion. This characteristic had already in Fox's time begun to distinguish all really influential politicians. Chatham, Pitt, and even George III. learnt sooner or later that public opinion was a force which counted for more than the votes of every M.P. who could be purchased for money or influenced by party spirit or by rhetoric. The favorite son of Lord Holland started in life with his father's cynical contempt for the public, and with a Whig's exaggerated veneration for the House of Commons. He bullied printers and printers' devils; he opposed the liberty of the press; he defended corruption, even when it was too rank to be sanctioned by Rigby or by Lord North; and he made himself, without any cause, the apologist for the most odious encroachment upon individual rights which even George III. ever attempted. Fox, no doubt, was young when he volunteered to assist the court in the attempt to plunder the Duke of Portland of his estates; but, after all, youth is compatible with common sense, and we cannot imagine that the youngest junior lord who has held office for the last fifty years would commit a folly like the folly of Fox in making himself an ally of Sir James Lowther. There is, we admit, a certain charm in boyish imprudence, even when dashed with a touch of equally boyish cynicism; but boyish recklessness, whatever its merits, is not a characteristic of any modern school. If we are to understand Fox at all, and to appreciate either his strength or his weakness, we must dismiss Mr. Trevelyan's fine phrase and find some description for Fox which a little better fits the facts than does that of "first great statesman of the modern school."

The true key to Fox's career, at any rate during his early years, is to be found in the then prevailing admiration for a kind of character as typical of the age in which he lived as it is foreign to the moral conceptions of the nineteenth century. He was "the man whose 'good heart' compensated for a thousand indiscretions"; he was the Charles Surface of fashionable society, as of English public life. He was genial, amusing, well-read in light literature, and still better versed in all the follies of high life. He hunted, he drank, he gambled, he lost, and when he lost soothed his creditors by his wit, and as long as he had any credit remaining kept even his "Jerusalem Cham-

* '*The Early History of Charles James Fox*. By George Otto Trevelyan, M.P., author of '*The Life and Letters of Lord Macaulay*.' London: Longmans; New York: Harper & Bros. 1886.

ber" in a roar. When the day came he "paid up," or rather (which is characteristic of the "man of a good heart") let his father pay up for him, like a man. Life was a game, and Charles James Fox played it like a gentleman—mainly at another person's expense. His father, it is fair to say, entered as fully into the spirit of the affair as did Uncle Oliver; and his generosity, his liberality, and his good humor would show a finer character than one can well believe Lord Holland to have possessed, were students not haunted with a suspicion that his lordship must have soothed his cares with the reflection that if Charles wasted the treasures his father had collected, there was plenty more money to be got from the source whence the family wealth was derived—viz., the public treasury—and that Lord Holland's son, who had already the ball at his feet, could easily, by using the arts which his father had practised, end his life at least as rich a man as his father. Moreover, it was not in social life only that Fox resembled Charles Surface. He carried into politics exactly the qualities of the good-hearted reprobate whose faults were, in the eyes of the audience whom Sheridan addressed, more than redeemed by freedom from hypocrisy and a somewhat maudlin affection for the uncle who had tipped him as a boy. It is at first sight, indeed, hard to believe that the young man who could abet the infamous attempt to plunder the Duke of Portland had even the dubious virtues attaching to the possession of a good heart; but consideration of Fox's subsequent career and a candid survey of the facts brought forward by Mr. Trevelyan pretty clearly prove that Fox's errors were the indiscretions of a clever lad drunk with vanity, spirits, and rhetoric, and given, as is the way with clever lads, to hold a paradox to be better than an argument, and unreal cynicism to be the true sign of genuine honesty. When he attacked the marriage law, when he defended corruption, when he invented quibbles in defence of injustice which would have raised the blush on the cheek of an Old Bailey lawyer, he was, it seems—and we believe that in the main this is the true explanation of his conduct—merely showing the high spirits of a school-boy, the conceit of a dandy, and the recklessness of a gambler. Brooks's was the ante-room to the House of Commons, and a young gentleman who came into the house after getting drunk at Brooks's naturally brought into the debate the spirit of the Club. There is, too, even at Fox's worst, a touch of the merits of Charles Surface. His attack on Lord Hardwick's Act was utterly silly and indefensible. His indignation at the Royal Marriage Act admits of more apology, but was, though Mr. Trevelyan hardly perceives this, utterly wrong-headed. But that a young man should neglect his interest even to pursue his hobbies gave to judicious observers some faint hope of reformation. When Charles Surface refuses to sell his uncle's picture, calm reflection tells one that he is a fool, and that a wise man or a self-denying man ought to have sold every stick he had to pay off his debts. But then a wise or a self-denying person would never have come to the pass in which Charles stood, and cynicism itself cannot deny that a man who has the vices, is the better for having the uncalculating sensibility, of a boy. Thus it was with Fox. We can hardly say that any one step in his early career was creditable to his sense, but every one feels pleased that the future Whig should at any cost have broken with the Court.

That Fox was during his early life nothing much better than a man whose follies were in part atoned for by a vein of generous feeling will probably be admitted, but admirers who see in him "our first great statesman of the modern school" will urge that the errors of a dissipated youth have no connection with the patriotic efforts of a glorious manhood. You cannot explain the character of the political saint by pointing to the faults committed before his conversion by the political reprobate. This is, no doubt, partly true, and the biographer who, like Mr. Trevelyan, breaks off the history of his hero just before his hero has begun to turn aside from the error of his ways, places his readers and critics in great difficulties; nevertheless we insist on Fox's character in youth just because we believe that it really does throw light on the achievements and failures of his later life. We yield to no one in admiration of the small band headed by Fox who, in the darkest days of reaction, held firm against fearful odds to their belief in the cause of freedom and justice; but the most ordinary knowledge of the general outlines of English history is sufficient to convince any one but a biographer or a eulogist that Fox, with all his astounding eloquence, with his high abilities, with his power of attaching friends with an attachment extinguished neither by defeat nor by death, with his generous sensibilities, and with the advantage of being (as Liberals must believe) on the side of humanity, of justice, and of truth, yet failed as a statesman to a degree in which hardly any other English politician of equal ability has failed either before or since the time when Fox was the adored chief of the Whigs. Now, if we ask what was the cause alike of his failure and of efforts more glorious than much success, we are almost driven to ascribe both the one and the other to the qualities which mark every act of his early years.

From the time when he entered Parliament to the day of his death, Fox's success was marred by three defects which are as patent during the years when he led the Whigs as during the years when, in mere boyish recklessness, he posed as the leader of the most reckless of the Tories. He lacked what many

sympathetic and enthusiastic men lack—that kind of judgment which makes followers feel that their leader is always the representative of common sense. The statesman who could believe and say that the taking of the Bastille was the greatest and best event in the history of the world, must have displayed a fervor of temper very foreign to ordinary English statesmanship. Still, in this matter, he represented the sentiment of his generation. His detestation of Lord Hardwick's Marriage Act, his exaggerated denunciations of the Royal Marriage Act, betray a flaw in his judgment far more serious than the participation in the exaggerated hopes of a generation boiling over with belief in human perfectibility. The causes which throughout life prejudiced Fox against the very rational provisions of the English marriage law were, as Mr. Trevelyan explains, personal. The explanation is correct, but it is absolutely fatal to any claim for Fox to statesmanlike judgment. A more serious deficiency, amply accounted for by the details of Fox's early education, was something like incapacity to appreciate the political weight of character. Chatham, Pitt, George III. were all men who in different ways appealed to that confidence in character which is the strong point, as it is also sometimes the weak point, of the English public world. Fox was the son of a professed cynic. His own generosity of nature saved him from cynicism, but his father's teaching, combined with the course of his early life, left him without the power of understanding either the sentiment or the prejudice in favor of respectability which exerts such prodigious influence over the public conduct of ordinary Englishmen. It is vain to say that this was an error he outgrew. The connection between Fox and the Prince Regent damaged him quite as much at a later stage of his career as did his reputation as a gambler during the portion of his life narrated by Mr. Trevelyan. Moreover, as great an error as was ever committed by a celebrated statesman—the alliance between Fox and North—sprang directly from his failure to perceive that no number of votes could make up to him or his party for the discredit of the coalition with men whom he had for years denounced as scoundrels deserving the block. In this, the one crowning folly of his life (which, he it remarked, is long subsequent to the period at which Mr. Trevelyan would, we presume, place his hero's conversion), Fox showed not only his indifference to character but his third great failing (shared, it must be remarked, by Burke and all the regular Whigs of the day)—a want of power to appreciate the deference due to public opinion. As is often the case with converts, Fox held unconsciously to the remnants of a creed which he had in theory renounced. The invectives hurled against Pitt and the King for venturing on a "penal dissolution"—that is, for appealing from Parliament to the sense of the nation—are utterly out of keeping with the views entertained in modern days by even the most moderate of Whigs; but they are completely in keeping with the theories of the youthful Tory desperado who supported the right of Parliament to make Luttrell member for Middlesex in defiance of the votes of the electors. The plain truth is that the Whigs never recovered from the rout of 1783 until they had got rid of the two defects they inherited from Fox. Lord Althorp, who was probably the dullest speaker who ever commanded the confidence of Parliament, gave them for the first time a leader of unblemished character, who could show that Liberalism might be combined with respectability and piety; the serious agitation for Parliamentary reform was the formal and final renunciation of the dogma that Parliament and not the nation was the real sovereign of England.

The same analysis of Fox's useful character which supplies a key to the mistakes of his career also shows the real source and nature of his greatness. If he may fairly be described as the Charles Surface of politics, modern readers must be careful to remember that Sheridan's hero represented to the public who first witnessed the "School for Scandal" a very different character from that which he bears in the eyes of modern playgoers. He was to the generation whom he delighted the embodiment of youthful goodness of heart, which in its very errors protested against cant and hypocrisy. Fox had all and tenfold more than the virtues which the most enthusiastic admirers of "a good heart" could attribute to Charles Surface; he possessed and displayed a power and steadfastness of sympathy very rare in an Englishman. His sensibility to nobleness compensated for the defects of his judgment. Hatred of oppression made him zealous on behalf of the people of India, and, at a time when all Europe was driven wild with panic and indignation at the horrors of the Reign of Terror, kept him true to the cause of freedom. His statesmanship and his friendships were but two sides of the same generous, sympathetic nature. Generosity and geniality are not, it may be urged, statesmanship. This is so, and the fact that noble sentiment does not enable a statesman to dispense with political insight is at bottom the reason why Charles James Fox will never take a high rank in the list of English ministers. But there are seasons when the sentiments of a public man are of even more consequence to the nation than his policy. Such was the period when Fox was the hero and standard-bearer of the Whigs. To keep alive, in the face of a narrow-minded court and of a panic-stricken people, the belief in freedom and humanity at a time when liberty and philanthropy had become associated with the horrors of the Reign of Terror, was the duty of Fox. That he and his friends were true to freedom when she was deserted

even by such a man as Burke, is their glory; and it is a curious but true reflection that even the contempt of public opinion which Lord Holland handed down to his son was transmuted in a generous mind into manly independence of popular clamor. That Fox's vices were the fruit in great degree of his education is patent. His virtues, also, were not the qualities which distinguish statesmen of the modern school; they were rather the natural outgrowth in a generous mind of the influences under which Fox passed his youth. A born orator—the child of an age of rhetoric and sentiment—he displayed to the last the real though sentimental and rhetorical virtues of the eighteenth century.

RECENT POETRY.*

MR. TENNYSON'S volume is dedicated "To Alfred Tennyson, my Grandson," and in terms which indicate the arrival of that epoch in a poetic career when, the poet's fame being won and his public the reading world, he indulges his whims unchecked by the curb of self-criticism or the need of deserving an attention already secure. This epoch arrives earlier with some poets than with others. With a few, doubtless, it coincides with the entire career: "I am in doubt whether he has lately become crazy or has always been so," said Mérimée of Victor Hugo. But though, in the case of Victor Hugo, Mérimée himself would have, perhaps, acknowledged this was chiefly a speculative matter, as unimportant as it was uncertain, in the case of such a singer as Mr. Tennyson it is of the last importance that he should maintain the admirable sanity which has characterized his most impetuous outpourings. Perhaps it is this, indeed, which will count most among his spiritual qualities in the final reckoning it is far too soon yet to cast up; it is clear, certainly, that his finest frenzy is least frenetic. At all events, his best work is safely to be included between the period when he permitted himself to write "The Skipping-Rope" and the present, wherein he sings, in a vein that certainly suggests Hugo:

"Golden-hair'd Ally, whose name is one with mine,
Crazy with laughter and babble and earth's new wine,
Now that the flower of a year and a half is thine,
O little blossom, O mine, and mine of mine,
Glorious poet who never hast written a line,
Laugh, for the name at the head of my verse is thine;
May'st thou never be wronged by the name that is mine."

We quote the entire dedication, both because it is all of a piece and because it seems to us worth recording.

Critics of a full mental habit have long been accustomed to find Mr. Tennyson as lacking in good sense as others of a more sensitive organization have found him wanting in the delicacy which no rhetorical subtleties, however felicitous, can satisfy with the bourgeois truth of things, and no mechanical refinement be a sufficient substitute for in the poetic equipment. At bottom the two come to very much the same thing—an accusation, namely, of failing in the quality for which, according to Artemus Ward, George Washington was particularly eminent; and, indeed, it is not difficult to see how dilettanteism unassisted may fail in fastidiousness. Tennysonians, to be sure, have always made light of this, and maintained that being open to parody was very different from being deserving of ridicule, that questions of taste were difficult to discuss and impossible to settle, and that in disputed cases one would hardly be likely to find a better authority than Tennyson himself. But even a Tennysonian, one would say, must reflect pensively upon his master's original force when he sees it so simply and indeed starkly illustrated as it is here. The alternative is that such caprices are of an epileptic transitoriness, and are really alien to the poet's real genius; but this, hostile critics would hold, involves the corollary that we only get the latter in such close combination with elegant and subtle mental mechanism that it is idle to talk of setting it free. It is either, they would say, the contained and elegantly expressed passion of "Maud," or such inspiration as

"O little blossom, O mine, and mine of mine."

We should not ourselves doubt which of the two was the true Tennyson, but the Tennysonians are always annoyed at any intimation that their favorite is the very genius of admirable workmanship, and resent the notion that his workmanship is not merely an attribute. Perhaps they are right; only one would either like something different from what Mr. Tennyson is apt to give us on occasions when he "lets himself go," or prefer the unbroken maintenance of his academic reserve. The latter sometimes secures little enough, one is tempted to add—all the more if the recent ventures of the laureate have seemed a *crescendo* of disappointment, and a cumulative warning that to hope for further refection from this fecund source is vain. One needs to pause a moment to realize fully the meaning of this, Tennyson has so long been regarded as an active worker whose race was by no means run, and

whose message had been but incompletely delivered. The first three poems in the present volume read like versifications of themes by Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett, it may be fancifully suggested, which means that they are popularly pathetic. The "Revenge" ballad is well known, as are also the "Defence of Lucknow," with its dedication to the Princess Alice, and the "De Profundis," and some of the shorter pieces. "In the Children's Hospital" is affecting in the same way with "The May Queen," though it is properly brief. "The Village Wife; or, The Entail" is in Northern dialect, and has all the humor of the character, though humor in Tennyson, however good it may be, always makes one stare. "The Voyage of Mældune" is cleverly told, and "Sir John Oldcastle, Lord Cobham," and "Columbus" are the best poems of the volume; in both there is true dramatic fire, both are carefully individualized, and the latter has a striking dignity of pathos—almost striking enough to be called Shaksperian if it were not so "ship-shape," as it were. The sonnets and shorter poems are of varying merit, and in the lines on Sir John Franklin we get down to the plain prose which, though it often seems imminent, the laureate's skill generally contrives to conceal.

Professor Blackie's "Lays and Legends" recall with singular precision the lays in which Macaulay celebrated the legends of ancient Rome. They give the story with all the explicitness of prose, they have a metrical jingle that is easy to keep pace with, and, considered as poetry or even a sympathetic rendering in verse of ancient poetic stories, they have the same false ring, the same hard, metallic echo. They are several degrees superior in point of diction, and now and then one seems to be in the neighborhood of some felicity of expression justly to be called poetic; on the other hand, they lack the unblushing, conscious insistence upon the merits of jingle as poetic cadence, and the thrilling spiritedness, which earned their extreme popularity for the "Lays of Ancient Rome." Professor Blackie is not only a distinguished Greek scholar but an experienced translator, and one needs strong justification to speak thus strongly of his defects. But surely the beginning of his introduction is strong justification:

"Muse of old Hellas, wake again!—
Thou wert not born to die—
And mingle sweet the Classic strain
With Gothic minstrelsy!
I feel a tingling in my veins,
My heart is beating strong;
Let novel-writers count their gains,
I'll pipe my Doric song."

How close this is to doggerel it does not take too fine an ear to recognize. And though the note of doggerel, so to speak, is an indefinite one, and in regard to it doctors often enough disagree, the menace it bears to the ballad-form is well known. But Professor Blackie, it may be remembered, is an advocate of the ballad-form as a medium for rendering even the hexameter of Homer, and it is natural that when he comes to render in his own language not Homer but Greek themes only, he should select it. The ballad-form has its own value, no one will deny; but neither will any one deny, we should say, that if it ever fails to satisfy it is especially insufficient in narrative. Persons who are fond of it as a medium of narrative (and Professor Blackie's lays are of course all narrative) will here, we fancy, find their notion subjected to all the tension it will bear. Admiring Scott's use of it is one thing, and finding it adequate to the demands of the legends of ancient Greece is wholly another. It is, perhaps, unjust to charge upon it the failure of Professor Blackie's employment of it, and it is, of course, open to any one to doubt whether a poet who has felt "a tingling in his veins" at the thought of the "muse of old Hellas," in any but the loosest and most general manner, would be likely to address her so.

"Muse of old Hellas, wake again!
Thou wert not born to die!"—

that is the way in which one might invoke the muse of old England or old Scotia, but hardly that of "old" Hellas. The "Classic strain" disappears entirely in the flood of "Gothic minstrelsy," and it would not be difficult to find novels fully as "Doric" as Professor Blackie's song. Let the reader think of the Cyclops in a passion and then read (p. 107):

"He filled the seas with weeping;
His big round eye was red;
His hair he tore like forests,
From off his clumsy head."

One asks himself inevitably if it is not an attempt to apply the spirit and manner of Mother Goose to Greek mythology. Or this, from the "Chorus of Young Maidens" in the poem "Theseus":

"The lot, the lot, the bloody lot!
But why this dinsome cheering?
'Tis he! 'tis he! Greek mothers, see
The kingly youth appearing!"

Further on, however, the "Chorus of all the People"—

"Famous is Thebes, by thy birth made immortal,
Son of Alcmena, whose bravery won
A place with the gods when Olympus' wide portal
Flew open to welcome Jove's club-bearing son!"—

testifies to the inadequacy of the ballad movement again. Read as prose the words would be well enough, but metrically it is not exaggeration to say the form is much better adapted to celebrating the wonders of "The Pimlico Pa-

* "Ballads, and Other Poems." By Alfred Tennyson. Boston: James R. Osgood & Co. 1880.
* "Lays and Legends of Ancient Greece." By John Stuart Blackie. Edinburgh and London: Wiliam Blackwood & Sons. 1880.
* "Under the Olive." Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1880.
* "Verses." By Susan Coolidge. Boston: Roberts Bros. 1880.
* "All Round the Year." Verses from Sky Farm. By Elaine and Dora Read Goodale. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1880.
* "The New Day: A Poem in Songs and Sonnets." By Richard Watson Gilder. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1880.

vilion" than to a Greek chorus, and is handled by Thackeray with a much nicer sense of its capacities than by Prof. Blackie.

Neither is it exaggeration to say that the author of 'Under the Olive' shows quite as keen appreciation of the classic spirit as Professor Blackie. The faculty is notoriously quite independent of erudition, and is, *à priori*, as likely to be met with in a Boston literary lady as in an Edinburgh Grecian. We do not mean to intimate that the author of 'Under the Olive' is not learned too; the notes appended to her little volume testify to the contrary, and indeed are witness of wide information: quotations from Hegel, Stendhal, Mrs. Browning, Max Müller, Mahaffy, Dowden, Paul de Saint-Victor, Michelet, J. Addington Symonds, and many other authorities contributing to the explanatory lore of the poems, and furnishing a more or less complete compendium of what has been said in admiration and criticism of Greek literature—rather too strictly contemporary, perhaps, to be of permanent value, but more interesting to read than a classical dictionary after some one has been at the pains to collect them. The poems are in great part lyrical, with interspersed dramatic pieces, monologues, and narratives. "To the Lyric Muse," "To the Poetess (Sappho)," "Sophocles," "Euripides," "Helena," "Herakles," "Antinous," "Artemis," and so on, are a few of the titles; the Greek orthography is generally employed, even to Kypri, by the way. There are many notes, not unnaturally, of which the modern quality is in curious contrast to the theme and action. For example:

IOPHON.
"Ha! What sayest thou? Is it, then, come to this!
[They seize their weapons.]"

is amusing, considering the title of the poem, "Sophocles." Mr. Swinburne's classicism sometimes receives the flattery of imitation in preference to classicism at first hand, though the resemblance is largely metrical and so far doubtless factitious. In the main there is a great deal of poetic feeling evinced, not a little poetic ardor even, and often a commensurate expression of the same. The Goethe translations are close, and yet smooth and not unpoetic.

Susan Coolidge's 'Verses' are as unpretending as their title. The author's muse is of a grave, tender, pensive cast of inspiration, and most of the lyrics that the book contains are penetrated with a mild seriousness that is perhaps their main attraction. Of other than their moral qualities it is difficult to speak positively, since in workmanship they are chiefly remarkable for the absence of blemish. A contained and quiet diction, and a kind of well-bred air denoting a decent rhetorical reserve and literary equipoise, may be said to characterize them; here and there, for example, this plainly holds in check any disposition towards what a less careful writer would consider the legitimate pathetic or otherwise emotional tendency of the theme. There is considerable metrical variety, but in general little effort or ambitiousness of any kind, and the distinction happily laid down in the Prelude is closely observed:

"Poems are heavenly things,
And only souls with wings
May reach them where they grow,

Verses are not of these;
They bloom on earthly trees," etc.

The Goodale sisters in 'All Round the Year' will, perhaps, disappoint those of their many admirers who have looked for a fuller and maturer note in their next volume of verse. This includes the thirty poems already published under the title 'In Berkshire with the Wild Flowers,' and the rest of its contents is of precisely the same quality as that of these. We, at any rate, are not among the disappointed, and had concluded that the progress shown in the last volume was all that could fairly be demanded of such charming freshness and simplicity until experience of life should add its inspiration to that of maturing powers. Many of these verses are delightful; indeed, they have a quality which relieves the narrow gamut of their themes and treatment of the displeasing effect of monotony in general; but they are as mature, we venture to say, as their successors written twenty years hence will be if the authors of them continue their placid existence "in Berkshire with the wild flowers," as their best friends must after all wish it may be their happy lot to do.

Mr. Gilder's 'The New Day: a Poem in Songs and Sonnets' is a second edition of a work published five years ago, but we mention it here because it will be new to many readers and deserves to have a wider audience than perhaps its exclusiveness of style and thought has hitherto won for it. It is, at all events, an unusual piece of workmanship by an artificer who takes the delight of a true artist in his work. It is undoubtedly more than this—a sustained effort of genuine inspiration, using terms in a popular sense and bearing in mind that genuine poetry, rare as it is, may be distinctly minor poetry. Whether the burden of the 'The New Day' is weighty enough to bear the strain of the mysticism Mr. Gilder has apparently imposed upon it, at some expense of simplicity and with deliberateness, is open to question. One is tempted to say it ought to have a key; the illustrations, pretty as they are, being insufficiently symbolical.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS.—III.

IT is a pity that Viollet-le-Duc's 'Learning to Draw; or, The Story of a Young Designer' (Putnam's) is not an out-and-out child's book, as from its title it might be supposed to be, and from its form it comes very near being. The first seven or eight pages, which are quite level with the childish comprehension, almost make the book worth buying for their sake alone; but there are many passages and pages, if not chapters, scattered through the volume which the youthful reader could profit by without an instructor. Fragments of M. Majorin's discourse with Jean about geometry, perspective, comparative anatomy, geology, contour levels, the Alps, Pompeii, will interest any boy or girl, while the varied and skilful illustrations will pique curiosity or teach direct lessons of truth and beauty. The topics we have just enumerated give some intimation of the author's scope of treatment, but as we are prepared to advise parents, and especially teachers of drawing, to read this work for themselves, we will also mention the abundance of useful talk about right methods of education, in which the claims of science and language are fairly handled, about moral culture, and about the disastrous influence of Louis XIV. on French art. We can indulge ourselves in but a single quotation, from the sixth chapter (pp. 62, 63). It is M. Majorin who speaks:

"Pardon: a simple comparison, in my opinion, will convince you that drawing, taught as it should be, no more leads a child to become an artist than instruction in the French language leads him to become a poet. It is not my fault if drawing is generally taught as seeking for its end a devotion to art. To me drawing is simply a mode of recording observations by the aid of a language which engraves them on the mind, and permits one to utilize them whatever the career he follows. Allow me to give you an example. One would hardly suppose that drawing would be useful to a magistrate; and yet how many judgments would be established on more logical premises if, in civil suits concerning joint property, the division of inheritances, or the responsibilities of an architect or contractor, the judges could comprehend a plan. You should have heard certain lawyers plead for hours, and the public minister discuss these questions from the testimony of experts, whom lawyers and judges understand very imperfectly, to know to what degree the educated classes are ignorant of the language of drawing."

The phrase "public minister" reminds us that the translator is not quite at ease in her task. For another instance (p. 76 and *passim*) we think she should have dispensed altogether with the French word *table* (generally associated in our minds with a horizontal plane) in favor of "perspective plane" or "transparent plane." On pp. 151, 152 there is a fatal confusion caused by calling the same distance in the one case four metres, in another two. And we do not understand what is meant on p. 24 by "the perpendicular lowered a degree on a straight line." These last are blemishes easily removable in a second edition.

Mr. Kingston's 'Dick Cheveley' (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co.) reeks with adventure. The hero's career will be followed with breathless interest by juvenile readers, who, however, we feel confident will experience no desire to emulate his example, as elders often timorously conceive. There is, too, considerable concession to the bounds of probability, and perhaps only an adult taste would under the circumstances demand greater variety. Doubtless there is a boy in every properly equipped household who can begin with enthusiasm the recital of a third starvation on a Pacific island after having gone through the experience in the ruined mill where Dick was placed by smugglers, and, later, the tortures in the hold of the ship where he was an involuntary stowaway. Some imaginativeness is required to accept the floating paradise which acts as a scoop-net to rescue the good characters that a cruel captain eliminates from his ship's company from time to time, leaving him finally with only the wicked ones, who fully deserve the wreck that awaits them.

Capt. C. W. Hall's 'Drifting Round the World: a Boy's Adventures by Sea and Land' (Boston: Lee & Shepard) opens with a sentence consisting of seventy-one words, divided only by commas. Those which immediately follow have a similar ponderosity, and the reader's first impressions are naturally unfavorable to the author. Nevertheless these quickly wear away as the story progresses, and if Capt. Hall had cast anchor after chapter viii. we should have little except praise for his entertaining and knowing narrative of adventure along the Atlantic coast from Cape Ann to Greenland. Chapters ix. and x., relating to Iceland, might also be admitted, but that would be the extent of our good nature. The book would then be less than half its present size (372 pages). As Great Britain is not left behind till p. 287, the remainder of the tour round the world is crowded into less than a hundred pages, which is simply preposterous. First impressions are accordingly revived and confirmed at the close. As Capt. Hall is rather free in citing poetry, we call his attention to the perversion of Coleridge on p. 185. The illustrations are a medley of good and indifferent woodcuts and subjects; none seem to have been expressly prepared for the text.

Capt. Hall devotes an entire chapter to the fate of the privateer known in the War of 1812 as the *Young Teaser*, and it certainly furnishes a good opportunity for the display of his descriptive powers. This incident is recorded in fourteen lines in Mr. Benson J. Lossing's 'Story of the United

States Navy' (Harpers), which, though intended for boys, is as painstaking, orderly, and minute as if an adult audience were in view. There is no attempt at picturesqueness or fine writing, which, indeed, our youngsters can well forego. There are plenty of pictures of the sort Mr. Lossing likes to employ—genuine portraits, medals, trophies, monuments, famous ships and batteries—and not too many apocryphal views of naval combats. The peaceful achievements of the navy are not overlooked, and happily there are few shameful deeds to cover up. One seeks for Greytown in vain in the index; and as evidence of how deliberately Mr. Lossing avoids picking out and emphasizing dramatic situations, we can point to the omission of any reference to that stirring transaction in 1853 in the harbor of Smyrna, which gave the protection of the flag to Martin Koszta in the hold of an Austrian frigate.

Our nautical budget terminates with 'Stories of the Sea, told by Sailors,' edited by the Rev. Edward E. Hale—a book of better quality than his previous 'Stories of the War, told by Soldiers' (Roberts Bros.). It gives extracts from Navarrete and Hakluyt and Southey and Basil Hall and sundry naval reports, interesting enough, surely, to send enterprising youth back to the "sources," which is Mr. Hale's main object, he says, in compiling the present series. We do not know, however, why he considers himself excused from paying much attention to the dates of the several borrowed narratives, and from punctiliousness in his extracts; or why he passes a translation which speaks (p. 28) of "a winter so fertile to showers"; or why he intimates that the original title-page of 'Robinson Crusoe' is the only source of information as to the location of Defoe's desert island, or denies such a resemblance between Selkirk's adventures and Crusoe's as to warrant ascribing the paternity of the latter to the former. It is probably careless proof-reading that gives us "in that matter" for "for that matter" on p. 9, just as we have "*décourverte*" on p. 5 and, by a fine compensation, "*Naufags*" twice on p. 291; "An-côna," p. 13; "Sainte-Marie" and "Saint Michel," p. 23. And since there is some self-gratulation on the index, let us point out that Crusoe does not occur in it, nor, still more oddly, Captain Knowles, whose experience on Pitcairn Island forms one of the most considerable as well as interesting portions of this collection.

'Prince Darling's Story Book' (Routledge) has at least the merit of furnishing an instructive contrast to English pabulum for the young. It consists of four translations from the French, the first and much the longest being Édouard Ourliac's "History of Prince Coqueluche," a satire which can only be appreciated by grown people, and will, we fear, seem a little tedious to children. Alexandre Dumas's "Honey-Stew of the Countess Bertha" is a story of ghosts and kobolds, not too blood-curdling to be read after dark, and partakes of the quality of the genuine fairy-tale of all countries. Preference, however, will be given, we believe, to Paul de Musset's "Gaffer Wind and Dame Rain," which has more poetry and originality than all the rest, and includes a little drama for a puppet-theatre. But it is, while perfectly pure, curiously unmoral, and one hesitates to declare whether the lesson of it is the evil of gossip, or the duty of imprisoning one's benefactors. As Wind and Rain are incorporeal and irresponsible existences, whose malevolence and love of mischief are as prominent as their beneficence, perhaps their treatment will appear less unnatural than if they had been human beings. Charles Nodier's "Woodcutter's Dog" is the merest trifle. The illustrations are numerous and Frenchy.

'Feet and Wings' (Lippincott) is one more compilation of animal stories new and old, with pictures new and old, but generally excellent.

There seems to be no end to the uses to which 'Mother Goose' can be put. The first part of 'Routledge's Singing Quadrille and Children's Singing Lancers' is a classification of the rhymes according as they relate to "wanderers" (Little Bo-peep and Goosey, Goosey Gander), "thieves" (Queen of Hearts; Tom, Tom, the Piper's Son; and Simple Simon), "wonders of nature," "dancers," and "bites," all set to dance music; the second part embraces some of the same rhymes and a few others, and likewise consists of five numbers. Mrs. Staples furnishes the æsthetic illustrations, charming views of juvenile "society"; Mr. Corbould the best of the comic ones. There is a plentiful lack of humor in Mr. Longmuir's. "Simple Simon" is accommodated to Yankee Doodle; "Three Blind Mice" is sung as in the old round; "Baa, baa, Black Sheep" has also a familiar setting. We suspend judgment on those less known to us.

'Allie's Mistake,' by Rebecca Gibbons Beach (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons), is the ordinary good-natured Christmas story, with the usual moral relative to the special duties of the season. Now that a child's "Tell me a story" means "Tell me a new one," this will do as well as another of similarly neutral tint and wholesome tone. The author intends the picture of the old colored woman to be the main merit of the book, as may be seen by the introduction.

The Lovers of Provence: Aucassin and Nicolette. A MS. Song-Story of the twelfth century, rendered into modern French by Alexandre Bida.

Translated into English verse and prose by A. Rodney Macdonough. Illustrated with engravings after designs by A. Bida, Mary Hallock Foote, W. H. Gibson, and F. Dielman. (New York: Fords, Howard & Hulbert.)—This charming story, part prose, part verse, has long been known to scholars as one of the brightest gems of mediæval French literature. The original version was published early in the present century, and had been preceded by a modern French translation by M. de Sainte-Palaye, which he entitled '*Amours du bon vieux temps*.' The circle of readers remained a small one until two years ago, when the eminent artist Bida published a second modern French version illustrated with nine etchings. This version Mr. Macdonough has had the happy thought to turn into English, and the publishers have reproduced the etchings of Bida and added seven designs by American artists. We have compared Mr. Macdonough's translation with the original Old-French version, and have found it usually very faithful and poetical. The story itself is a delightful picture of mediæval romance, pure in tone, and painted with a delicacy of stroke and vividness of coloring attained in few modern compositions. The make-up of the book is in harmony with its charming contents.

A Text-book of the Physiological Chemistry of the Animal Body. By Arthur Gamgee, M.D., F.R.S. Vol. i. (London and New York: Macmillan & Co. 1880.)—English-speaking students of physiology are to be congratulated upon the appearance of this work, for they will take the place that in the German curriculum is so well filled by the text-books of Kühne and of Hoppe-Seyler. Though Dr. Gamgee's main object is to present to English readers a succinct account of the recent advances in physiological chemistry, he has by no means performed his work in the spirit of a mere compiler. On the contrary, his own investigations and his personal experience in the laboratory enable him to make valuable additions to our knowledge in this department of science, and to pronounce a critical judgment upon the experimental methods which he describes. Neither does he confine himself rigorously to the consideration of the purely chemical problems relating to the tissues under discussion, but, where the better elucidation of the subject seems to require it, he makes interesting digressions into the domains of the allied sciences, anatomy, physiology, histology, etc. Nearly one-half of the present volume is devoted to the description of the blood, and more than one-third of the remainder is occupied by a discussion of the contractile tissues, these being the two directions in which physiological chemistry has perhaps made its most important advances. For the chapter on the contractile tissues, which contains a very interesting historical account of the various theories which have been held in regard to the source of muscular power, Dr. Gamgee expresses his indebtedness to his friend, Mr. John Priestley.

The author promises us, during the coming year, a second volume, in which the chemistry of the chief animal functions will be treated of. The whole work will then form a complete treatise on physiology as far as chemical phenomena are concerned.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

Authors.—Titles.	Publishers.—Prices.
Addison (D. C.), <i>The Street Singer: a Poem</i> , new ed.	(Henry A. Sumner & Co.) \$1 50
American Newspaper Annual	(N. W. Ayer & Son)
Bailey (Sarah L.), <i>Historical Sketches of Andover</i>	(Houghton, Mifflin & Co.) 3 75
Beaulieu: a Tale	(J. B. Lippincott & Co.) 1 25
Blackie (Prof. J. S.), <i>Lays and Legends of Ancient Greece</i>	(Wm. Blackwood & Sons)
Boardman (Rev. G. D.), <i>Studies in the Mountain Instruction</i>	(D. Appleton & Co.)
Brislin (Gen. J. A.), <i>The Beef Bonanza</i>	(J. B. Lippincott & Co.) 1 25
Chamberlain (B. H.), <i>Classical Poetry of the Japanese</i>	(Trubner & Co.)
Champlin (J. J.), <i>Young Folks' Cyclopædia of Persons and Places</i>	(Henry Holt & Co.) 3 50
Congdon (C.), <i>Reminiscences of a Journalist</i>	(J. R. Osgood & Co.) 1 50
Doran (Dr.), <i>Monarchs Retired from Business</i> , 2 vols.	(A. C. Armstrong & Son) 3 50
Feet and Wings	(J. B. Lippincott & Co.)
Fenton (J.), <i>Early Hebrew Life</i>	(Trubner & Co.)
Forrester (Mrs.), <i>Roy and Viola</i>	(J. B. Lippincott & Co.) 1 25
Fothergill (Dr. J. M.) and Wood (Prof. H. C.), <i>Food for the Invalid</i>	(Macmillan & Co.) 1 00
Franz (R.), <i>Album of Songs</i>	(Oliver Ditson & Co.)
Gibson (W. H.), <i>Pastoral Days</i>	(Harper & Bros.) 7 50
Gilder (R. W.), <i>The New Day: Poetry</i>	(Charles Scribner's Sons) 1 25
Goodale (Elaïne and Dora), <i>All Round the Year: Poetry</i>	(G. P. Putnam's Sons) 1 25
Gordon (J. E. H.), <i>Physical Treatise on Electricity and Magnetism</i> , 2 vols.	(D. Appleton & Co.)
Greville (A.), <i>Princess Ogheroff</i> , swd.	(T. B. Peterson & Bros.) 75
The Trials of Ra'ssa	"
Hall (Capt. C. W.), <i>Drifting round the World</i>	(Lee & Shepard) 1 50
Hardy (F.), <i>The Trumpet-Major; a Tale</i>	(Henry Holt & Co.) 1 00
Head of Medusa: a Tale	(Roberts Bros.) 1 50
Howe (Mrs. J. W.), <i>Modern Society</i>	" 50
Ingersoll (C.), <i>Friends Worth Knowing</i>	(Harper & Bros.)
Joseph (R.), <i>Daily Studies on the Pianoforte</i>	(Edward Schuberth & Co.)
Kingston (W. H.), <i>Dick Cheveley</i>	(J. B. Lippincott & Co.) 1 50
Koolman (J. ten D.), <i>Wörterbuch der Ostfriesischen Sprache</i> , Part II, swd.	(Hermann Braams) 1 50
Leland (E. H.), <i>Farm Homes</i>	(Orange Judd Co.)
Lossing (B. J.), <i>Story of the U. S. Navy: for Boys</i>	(Harper & Bros.) 1 00
Moseley (Julia D.), <i>Little Zee</i>	(Henry A. Sumner & Co.) 1 00
Nestlebrook: a Tale, swd.	(G. P. Putnam's Sons) 1 00
Oncken (W.), <i>Allgemeine Geschichte</i> , Part 23, swd.	(B. Westermann & Co.)
Peacock (T. B.), <i>Rhyme of the Border War</i>	(G. W. Carleton & Co.)
Proofs from <i>Scribner's Monthly</i> and <i>St. Nicholas</i>	(Scribner & Co.) 1 50
Read (T. B.), <i>Drifting: a Poem</i>	(J. B. Lippincott & Co.)
Routledge's Singing Quadrilles	(Geo. Routledge & Sons)
Saintsbury (G.), <i>Primer of French Literature</i>	(Macmillan & Co.) 40
St. John (C. H.), <i>Country Love and City Life</i>	(A. Williams & Co.)
Schliemann (Dr. H.), <i>Ilios: City and Country of the Trojans</i>	(Harper & Bros.) 11 00
Sheldon (G. W.), <i>American Painters</i> , enlarged ed.	(Harper & Bros.)
Stoddard (C.), <i>Marshall's Flight into Egypt</i> , swd.	(D. Appleton & Co.) 30
Thompson (S. D.), <i>Liability of Directors</i>	(Wm. H. Stevenson)
Thornet (Teresa A.), <i>Kate Comerford</i>	(J. B. Lippincott & Co.) 1 25
Toland (Mrs. M. B. M.), <i>Onti Ora: Poetry</i>	" 2 50
Watson (J. W.), <i>Beautiful Snow, and Other Poems</i>	(T. B. Peterson & Bros.) 2 00
Willing (Mrs. C.), <i>Persephone, and Other Poems</i>	(J. B. Lippincott & Co.)
Youngster	"

